



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BASILDON



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PATRICK X. O'DWYER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

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For the year 1969



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## FOREWORD

I have much pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Report for the year 1969. A study of its contents shows that the level of general health is most satisfactory. There has been no serious unusual incidence of illness, and the statistics compare favourably with those for the region and the nation when due allowance is made for the age structure of the population, which includes a high proportion of the young.

The maintenance, improvement and further development of the services has only been achieved by much hard work on the part of your staff, and it is perhaps insufficiently appreciated that work in any area of rapid and continuing expansion frequently places undue pressures on the staff. For this reason I am especially grateful for the support and loyalty of the staff at a time when the forthcoming changes in local government and the health services bring uncertainty as the handmaiden of promise.

In conclusion I would sound a note of warning against complacency. Some habits, not peculiar to Basildon or indeed to this nation, continue to reward many who practise them with impaired health and sometimes shortened life. Cigarette smoking is one such habit. Its control rests with the individual smoker and I hope future annual reports will record the emergence of more responsibility in the use of individual freedom in relation to smoking.

PATRICK X. O'DWYER

98 High Street  
Billericay

*September 1970*

## PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

<i>Senior Administrative Officer</i> J. E. Plummer		<i>Senior Assistant Supervisor</i> Assistant Supervisors	1 8
<i>Senior Administrative Assistant</i> C. A. Watt		<i>Senior Section</i> Supervisor	1 1
<i>Administrative and Clerical Staff</i> 16		Senior Assistant Supervisor Assistant Supervisor Assistant Instructors	1 1 5
<i>Medical Officers</i> Dr. M. M. Dewar, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H. Dr. J. K. Chakrabarti, M.B., B.S., D.A., R.C.S. & P. Dr. F. Brown, M.B., Ch.B., D.A. Dr. B. Cushnaghan, M.B., Ch.B. Dr. A. Denham, M.B., B.S. Dr. M. Denham, M.B., B.S. Dr. J. Newton, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A. Dr. R. Goodman, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B. Dr. P. Freeman, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Dr. R. L. Agrawal, M.B., B.S., D.C.H. Dr. A. J. E. Millwood, M.B., B.S., D.C.H.	} Sessional	<i>Day Nursery</i> Matron Deputy Matron Warden Nursery Nurses Nursery Assistants Nursery Students	1 1 1 3 2 6
		<i>Bader House</i> Supervisor Senior Assistant Instructor Clerical Assistant	1 1 1
		<i>Nursing Officer</i> Miss M. R. Clarke, S.R.N., S.C.M.H.V.	
		<i>Assistant Nursing Officer</i> Miss A. M. Delahunty, S.R.N., S.C.M. (until 30.10.69)	
		<i>Home Help Organisers</i> Mrs. I. J. Dobbins (from 23.6.69) Mrs. P. B. Steel Mrs. A. Mills (until 11.4.69)	
		<i>Health Visitors</i> 17=15.26 whole-time officers	
		<i>Clinic Nurses</i> 9=6.18 whole-time officers	
		<i>Speech Therapists</i> Mrs. M. Trim Mrs. B. H. Barraclough	
		<i>Social Worker in Child Guidance Clinic</i> Mrs. G. Ollington	
		<i>Clinic Clerical Workers</i> 8=4.6 whole-time officers	
<i>Supervisory Dental Officer</i> P. R. J. Bush, L.D.S., R.C.S.(Eng.), B.D.S.(U.Lond.).		<i>Chiropodists</i> 5=3 whole-time officers	
<i>Dental Officers (including above)</i> 10=5.8 whole-time officers		<i>Senior Mental Welfare Officer</i> G. B. Tipping	1
<i>Dental Surgery Assistants</i> 10=6.8 whole-time officers			
* <i>Director of Child Guidance Service</i> Dr. J. N. Runes, M.D.			
<i>Social Welfare Officers</i> Miss E. Ruggles Mrs. E. M. Spicer Mr. P. N. Gorman Mrs. E. Booth			
<i>Welfare Assistant</i> Miss M. Berryman			
<i>Training Centre</i> <i>Junior Section</i> Supervisor			

*Mental Welfare Officers*

B. Gorman  
 E. Martin (until 28.10.69)  
 Mrs. J. E. Pike (from 1.12.69)

*Miscellaneous Workers*

30 part-time  
 5 whole-time

*\*Specialist Advisers*

Dr. W. H. Clark, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.,  
 D.O.  
 Dr. D. Nichol, M.B., B.S., D.L.O.

*Nursery Nurses*

0.6 whole-time officers

*District Midwives*

19 whole-time officers

*Nursery Assistants*

0.6 whole-time officers

*District Nurses*

18

*Home Helps*

110 part-time  
 3 whole-time

*\*Regional Hospital Board Appointment*



## GENERAL STATISTICS, 1969

Area in Acres	27,139
Population (Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1969)	122,760
Rateable value at 31.3.69	£5,976,619
Estimated product of a Penny Rate	£24,400

## VITAL STATISTICS, 1969

## Live Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
LEGITIMATE	1,157	1,082	2,239
ILLEGITIMATE	39	54	93
	<hr/> 1,196	<hr/> 1,136	<hr/> 2,332

	<i>Basildon</i>	<i>England &amp; Wales</i>
Total birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	19.00	16.3
Comparability factor	0.79	1.00
Adjusted birth rate	15.00	16.3
Illegitimate live births formed 4% of the total births		

## Still Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
LEGITIMATE	12	5	17
ILLEGITIMATE	1	2	3
	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 20

Still births rate per 1,000 live and still births	9
England and Wales still birth rate, 1969	13

## Total Live and Still Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
LEGITIMATE	1,169	1,087	2,256
ILLEGITIMATE	40	56	96
	<hr/> 1,209	<hr/> 1,143	<hr/> 2,352

## Deaths

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS	467	428	895
Total death rate per 1,000 estimated population			7.30
Comparability factor			1.50
Adjusted death rate			11.00
England and Wales death rate			11.90



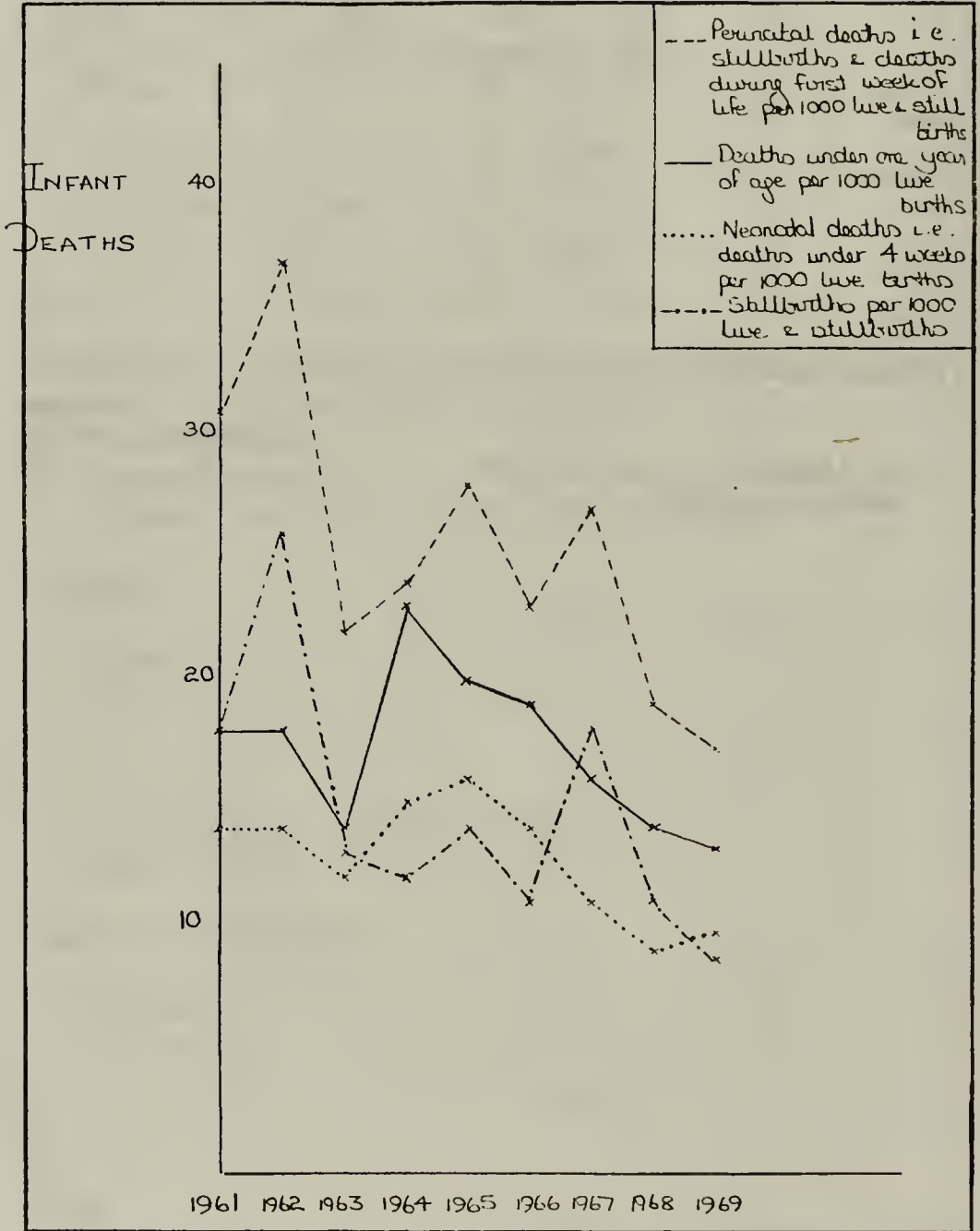
**Infant Mortality Rates**

	<i>Basildon</i>	<i>England &amp; Wales</i>
Total infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	14	18

Age at death	No. of infant deaths	Rates per 1000 live births	Legitimate infants	Rates per 1000 legitimate live births	Illegitimate infants	Rates per 1000 illegitimate live births
Under 1 year	32	14	30	13	2	22
Under 4 weeks	23	10	22	9	1	11
Under 1 week	19	8	19	8	—	—

**Perinatal Mortality Rates (still births and deaths under one week combined)**

	<i>Basildon</i>	<i>England &amp; Wales</i>
Per 1,000 total live and still births	17	23
Maternal mortality	—	



**Causes of Death amongst Civilians** as provided by the Registrar-General, 1969.

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	—	2	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	—	2
Other Tuberculosis, including late effects	1	1	2
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	20	10	30
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	15	13	28
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	57	13	70
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	21	21
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	5	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	5	—	5
Leukaemia	2	1	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms	31	23	54
Diabetes Mellitus	4	6	10
Other Endocrine, etc., Diseases	—	2	2
Anaemias	—	4	4
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	—	1	1
Mental Disorders	1	3	4
Meningitis	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	—	6	6
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	13	15
Hypertensive Disease	9	11	20
Ischaemic Heart Disease	130	93	223
Other forms of Heart Disease	9	12	21
Cerebrovascular Disease	44	74	118
Other Disease of Circulatory System	11	21	32
Influenza	3	1	4
Pneumonia	27	29	56
Bronchitis and Emphysema	28	9	37
Asthma	2	2	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	10	3	13
Peptic Ulcer	2	2	4
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	2	1	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	—	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	4	5
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	3	4
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	8	9
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	1	—	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	2	3
Congenital Anomalies	5	3	8
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	5	3	8
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	5	4	9
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	2	2	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	13	6	19
All Other Accidents	1	5	6
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	3	1	4
All other external causes	1	2	3
<b>TOTAL all causes</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>895</b>

**HEALTH SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1969  
PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASE) REGULATIONS 1969**

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received during the year.

	Males	Females
Acute Meningitis	1	—
Dysentery	10	20
Infective Encephalitis	1	—
Infective Hepatitis	8	2
Measles	233	195
Scarlet Fever	44	36
Tuberculosis, Other	1	—
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	5	4
Whooping Cough	—	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>261</b>

**TOTAL ALL DISEASES NOTIFIED FOR THE YEAR**  
Plus food poisoning cases notified

**564**  
7 male 20 female  
(3 male and 3 female  
cases confirmed)

### TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives details of the age and sex incidence of all new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year.

Age Group	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
2-4 years	—	—	—	—
5-9 years	—	—	—	—
10-14 years	—	—	—	—
15-19 years	1	—	—	—
20-24 years	—	—	—	—
25-34 years	—	1	—	—
35-44 years	—	—	—	—
45-54 years	4	—	—	—
55-64 years	1	—	1	—
65-74 years	—	1	—	—
75 and over	—	1	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	6 (15)	3 (6)	1 (1)	— (2)

#### Inward Transfers

PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
Male	Female	Male	Female	
1	1	—	—	2

#### Outward Transfers

PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
Male	Female	Male	Female	
—	—	—	—	—

## PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

(delegated by Essex County Council under Section 46 of the Local Government Act 1958)

### Health Centres

#### (Section 21, National Health Service Act 1946)

It is the duty of the Local Health Authority to provide, equip, maintain and staff health centres from which may be supplied some or all of a variety of services, including general medical, general dental, pharmaceutical, local health authority, hospital out-patient and health education. The first purpose-built health centre is to be provided in Laindon, a neighbourhood centre in the New Town where extensive housing development is taking place, the site has been acquired and building will commence in March 1970.

A further purpose-built health centre is to be provided in Vange, also a neighbourhood centre within the new town, and it is hoped that building will commence in 1971.

A third health centre is planned for Billericay, where the population has expanded to approximately 30,000.

### Care of Mothers and Young Children (Section 22)

#### Notification of Birth or Stillbirth

The number of births notified as taking place in the Urban District each year since 1965 is given below:

1965	2,280
1966	2,333
1967	2,215
1968	2,398
1969	2,298

### Clinics

The health services sessions carried out at the purpose-built health clinics at Great Oaks, Basildon, Craylands, Laindon, Billericay and Wickford again showed increased attendances over the previous year.

#### Ante Natal Sessions

Ante Natal Sessions where expectant mothers attended for samples of blood to be taken continued to be held in Great Oaks, Pitsea and Wickford clinics during 1969.

Relaxation classes supervised by health visitors and midwives trained in the psycho-prophylaxis method of relaxation were held at the clinics. At these sessions expectant mothers were taught ante natal and post natal exercises and midwives booked patients for home confinements.

Patients attending sessions	Patients attending for first time		Total Attendances		Total
	Medical Officers	Midwives	Medical Officers Sessions	Midwives Sessions	
Ante-Natal	736	883	3,795 (4,363)	3,910 (5,765)	7,705 (10,128)



### Child Health Sessions

These sessions were held at all clinics during 1969 and were well attended.

Sessions continued to be held in hired premises as stated under:

Shotgate Community Centre  
 South Green Memorial Hall  
 Congregational Church Hall, Thynne Road  
 Lee Chapel South Community Centre  
 Lee Chapel North Community Centre  
 Buttsbury (commenced 13th October 1969)

Details are given below of the total attendance of children during 1969 together with comparative figures for 1968.

Year of Birth	Total Attendance
1963-68	(1968) 30,651
1964-69	(1969) 33,203

### Distribution of Welfare Foods, Medicaments and Nutrients

Government welfare foods, i.e. National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin 'A' and 'D' tablets, were sold at Health clinics. In addition 11 private traders, chemists and other voluntary distribution centres continued to assist with the distribution of these Government welfare foods.

The table gives details of sales during the year, the previous year's figures are given in brackets.

National Dried Milk	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice	Vitamins A & D
TOTALS 6,848 (10,106)	2,453 (2,627)	45,411 (42,145)	1,380 (1,418)

Proprietary items are also sold at the health clinics, subject to the recommendations of the Medical Officer, health visitor or midwife in attendance, and these are:

- An evaporated or dried milk;
- A cereal food;
- A Vitamin 'B' preparation;
- A Vitamin 'C' preparation;
- A preparation to assist lactation.

During the year there was an increased demand for these proprietary items which is reflected in the decreased sales of Government welfare foods.

### Play Groups and Child Development Sessions

The main purpose of these sessions is to assist families with emotional tensions where a toddler is likely to be disturbed, or who exhibits signs of behaviour disorder.

Children may be referred by the Child Guidance Clinic, a doctor or health visitor, a hospital or a clinic Medical Officer. All admissions and



discharges are made on the recommendation of a Medical Officer in consultation with the health visitors.

	Craylands Clinic	Great Oaks Clinic	Wickford Clinic
Sessions held	50	152	99
Number admitted	12	27	17
Number discharged	6	11	15
Total number on Register at 31.12.69	7	19	13

#### Classification of Reasons for Admission

	Craylands Clinic	Great Oaks Clinic	Wickford Clinic
Fibrocystic diseases	1	—	—
Spina bifida	1	—	—
Speech defect	2	12	4
Retarded	2	3	2
Lack of confidence	1	6	1
Other behaviour problems	2	12	6
Home difficulties	3	3	2
Hearing defect	—	—	1
Autistic	—	—	1
Mongol	—	1	—

#### Day Nursery (50 places)

The day nursery continued to meet a need in the area and admissions are based on a system of priorities which are:

1. Children of sole wage earners, i.e. widow, widower, a parent separated, divorced or deserted, unmarried mothers, mothers working on account of father's chronic illness.
2. Admissions recommended by the Medical Officer of Health for medical reasons, including cases received from socio-economic circumstances irrespective of whether mothers are in employment.
3. Admissions due to illness of either parent, including confinement of mother or emergency.
4. Children of mothers in employment essential to communal services, i.e. teachers, nurses, etc.
5. Non-priority.

Number of days nursery open	254	(248)
Total number of attendances	9,976	(9,600)

#### Daily Guardian Scheme

None was registered during the year.

## **Dental Treatment of Mothers and Young Children**

There was an increased demand for inspection and treatment of pre-school age children – a trend which is to be encouraged as early diagnosis can reduce the amount of work that may have to be carried out in later years. Good relationships fostered between the dental staff, and pre-school age children has considerable value in increasing regular attendance during the school period of the child. Expectant and Nursing Mothers were given treatment and advice concerning the care of the permanent dentition and the value of correct food intake and oral hygiene during and after their pregnancies.

## **Health Education**

As the appointment of a full-time Health Education Officer was again deferred on financial grounds the Health Visitor Group Advisor mainly organised the health education programme in the district.

## **Health Clinics**

Topics displayed at Clinics have been varied and originality has been shown in the arrangements of the subjects chosen in the individual Clinics. Subjects have included:

- Foot Hygiene and Care of the Feet;
- Care of the Skin;
- Posture;
- Home Safety, including safety of infants, water safety, safety at Christmas time – fire safety and general home safety;
- Infection including colds, measles and influenza;
- Smoking;
- Dental Hygiene;
- Holiday health;
- Nutrition;
- Cytology – Cancer Smear Test
- Health rules.

Doctors and Health Visitors have given an increasing number of talks, using films and slides and other practical visual aids, to various organisations including – Mother's Clubs, Home Helps, Church Groups, Parent/Teacher Associations, Young Wives, Clubs for Elderly.

The staff of the Health Clinics have co-operated and explained the working of the Health Services, Clinics and Health Education to: Student Teachers, Medical Secretaries, Welfare Visitors, Hospital Nurses, Nursery Nurses, Pupil Midwives, Social Workers studying aspects of Family Law and Health Education, Pupils of Comprehensive Schools studying Parentcraft and Social Services.

## **Schools**

Health Education work in the schools has greatly increased and the demand for help in Specialised Courses is apparent at most of the Comprehensive Schools in the area.

Twelve Courses were arranged during the course of the year, and these varied from two–ten lectures with films or slides according to the requirements of the schools involved.

Specialist speakers included a Gynaecologist, Medical Officers, General Practitioners, Educational Psychologist, Health Inspectors, Health

Visitors, Refuse Disposal Officers, speaker from Southend Water Works, Marriage Guidance Counsellor, Personnel Manager from Industry, County Health Organiser and his Deputy.

Subjects which have been included in the Personal Relationship Courses are as follows:

- Parenthood – Immunisation and Mothercraft.
- Health and Hygiene – Communicable Diseases;
- Sex Education;
- Birth of a Baby;
- Contraception;
- Abortion;
- Alcohol;
- Venereal Disease;
- Dangers of Smoking;
- Dangers of Drugs;
- Mental Health;
- Normal Family Life
- Other Miscellaneous Talks.

Parents have shown considerable interest in these courses and films and discussions were arranged, so that they could have the opportunity to see the films shown to the children (mainly 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Forms).

The films were very well received, and the parents practically unanimous in agreeing for their children to attend the courses arranged for them. Since the parents have taken an active interest, many of them have said that the fact of both parents and children having participated, has helped them to communicate with each other.

### **Midwifery Service (Section 23)**

During the year 1969 the Midwifery Service has continued to function adequately, there were more staff changes than in 1968. The Assistant Nursing Officer left in October to take up a more senior position in Suffolk. Miss Marsh, Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives, Thurrock, is assisting in a temporary part-time capacity until a replacement is appointed.

Although the Urban District population increased, the birth rate declined, as also did the number of home confinements, as the statistics show.

The number of mothers discharged after 48 hours continues to rise, this trend compares with the National figures.

The special training in psycho-prophylaxis has now been offered to all the staff, and only three midwives still require this training. This will be taken in 1970.

The telephone answering machines are being increased, making better communication for the midwives.

There has been some change in the allocation of Pupil Midwives due to alteration in the training at Thorpe Coombe Hospital, but we still continue to receive pupils from Orsett Hospital; St. John's Chelmsford and Rochford. These pupils received a good practical training in the area and all passed their examinations successfully.

## Statistics

Home confinements	831	(911)
Hospital confinements	1,487	(1,587)
(discharges homes before the tenth day, 1,117 (1,311))		
TOTALS	2,318	(2,498)

## Health Visiting

### (Section 24)

The Health Visiting Service in 1969 was slightly better staffed than in recent years, due partially to the increased recruitment of student Health Visitors, but there was again no increase in establishment. This we hope will be possible in 1970.

Again the service had to be augmented with Clinic Nurses in order to maintain a good standard of community care.

Health Education has greatly increased, mainly under the supervision and organisation of the Group Advisor.

The Child Minders and Playgroups have more than trebled in 1969. This has created much more work in administration and supervision, but appears to be a needed and worthwhile service.

No. of Visits paid by Health Visitors	First Visit	Total Visits
Children under 1 year	2,735 (3,030)	17,138 (13,936)
Children aged 1-2 years	1,965 (3,634)	
Children aged 2-5 years	6,119 (3,897)	
Other cases	1,312 (1,190)	2,122 (1,732)
Persons aged 65 years and over	1,741 (1,413)	3,691 (2,820)
TOTALS	13,872 (13,154)	22,951 (18,488)

## Screening Tests

### (a) for deafness

Screening was carried out by the health visitors of infants 'at risk' to ascertain if they had hearing defects.

### (b) for phenylketonuria

Routine tests continued to be undertaken on babies for this rare condition, which leads to severe mental subnormality unless discovered and treated very early. During the year 2,011 first tests and 1,471 second tests were carried out by the phenistix method. On the 1st November the Guthrie testing method was started whereby the midwives submit blood samples from the babies on the sixth day, and these are sent to the



Neo-natal Screening Laboratory at the Hospital for Sick Children, Gt. Ormond Street. No positive cases were reported during the year.

### **Congenital Malformations**

As from 1st January 1964 a scheme was introduced nationally for the notification of children born with congenital malformations apparent at birth.

During the year 33 children with such malformations were reported and the following is an analysis of the total of 36 malformations notified.

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Central Nervous System	16	13	10	9	8
Other System	—	—	1	1	2
Limbs	10	6	5	12	17
Miscellaneous Malformations	7	3	2	3	2
Uro-genital system	4	3	2	4	4
Alimentary system	3	1	2	5	3
Respiratory system	1	1	—	1	—
Other skeletal	1	—	—	1	—
Eye Ear	1	—	2	—	—
Heart and Great Vessels	—	3	3	3	1

The notification scheme was introduced following the demonstration of the effects of the drug thalidomide and suspicions of other drugs which helped to demonstrate the need for a continued record of at least the major abnormalities detectable at birth.

### **‘At Risk’ Register**

Six hundred and twenty-three were placed on the ‘At Risk’ register making a total of 1,679 children on the register at the end of 1969, who had been subject to certain adverse influences in perinatal life.

The names of 698 children were removed from the register after medical examination showed that no further special observation was necessary.

### **Home Nursing Service (Section 25)**

The number of new nursing cases throughout 1969 was slightly less than in the two previous years, but the actual nursing visits to the patients increased by approximately 2,000 over the 1967 figures and by 100 over the 1968 figures.

Although there are still a large proportion of chronic sick and elderly nursed at home due to the limited number of hospital beds available, more surgical cases were nursed at home than in previous years.

There were very few staff changes. A third male nurse was appointed making a more efficient service working as a male nurse team.

Two nurses took the District Nurse Training Course at Chelmsford, and successfully passed their examinations. There are now only two nurses remaining to take the District Nursing Certificate, which we envisage will be in 1970.

## Statistics

Type of Case	No. of new cases attended by home nurses during the year	No. of visits paid by home nurses during the year	No. of cases on the books 31.12.69
Medical	884 (954)	33,191 (33,784)	310 (274)
Surgical	267 (293)	5,686 (5,315)	49 (52)
Maternal			
Complications	6 (5)	11 (30)	— (1)
Tuberculosis	5 (2)	33 (71)	— (2)
Others	16 (32)	1,591 (1,213)	15 (17)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,178 (1,286)</b>	<b>40,512 (40,413)</b>	<b>374 (346)</b>

### Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act 1948

The amendments to the Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, as anticipated, resulted in a sharp increase in the number of enquiries and eventual registrations as shown by the following figures:—

Section 1 (1) (a) Number of Play Groups registered	40 (31)
Section 1 (1) (b) Number of persons registered	77 (26)
Number of children being cared for	1,214 (896)

In all cases the applicants receive an initial visit from the Superintendent Nursing Officer before registration is granted and registered Child Minders and Play Groups are visited regularly by health visitors who help and give advice whenever necessary.

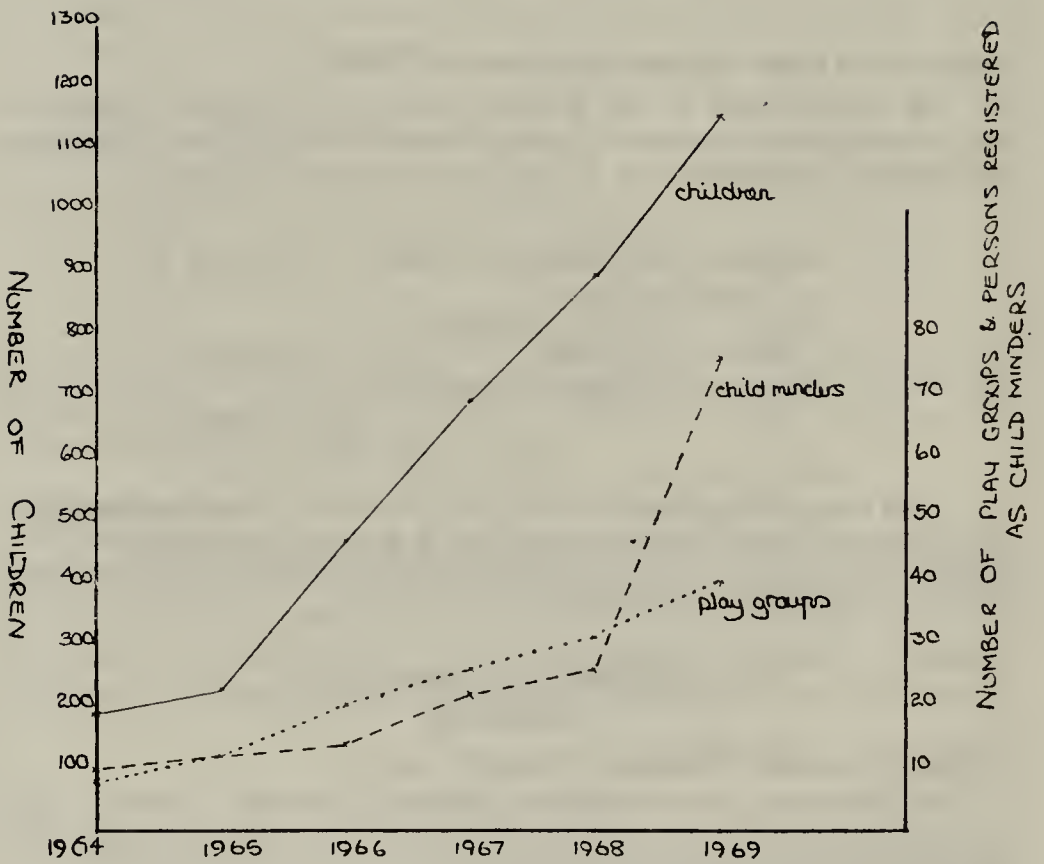
### Vaccination and Immunisation (Section 26)

#### Vaccination against Smallpox

The following table records the number of persons known to have been vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the year by general practitioners. Figures for 1968 are given in brackets.

Age at date of Vaccination	Primary Vaccinations 1969	Re-Vaccination 1969
Under 1 year	34 (56)	— (—)
1 year	457 (837)	3 (2)
2-4 years	139 (278)	23 (9)
5-15 years	52 (88)	105 (69)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>682 (1,259)</b>	<b>131 (80)</b>

# NURSERIES & CHILD MINDERS REGULATION ACT 1948.





### Triple Antigen (diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus)

The table below gives statistical information relating to immunisation using the triple antigen:

	1969	1968	1967	1966	62/65	Under 16	Total
No. of children who received primary course	46	845	61	19	18	1	990
No. of children who received reinforcing immunisation	4	342	1,010	102	449	65	1,972

### Poliomyelitis

Arrangements for vaccination against poliomyelitis continued throughout the year.

	1969	1968	1967	1966	62/65	Under 16	Total
No. of persons who received primary oral course	34	904	155	40	56	14	1,203
No. of persons who received reinforcing dose	3	130	476	56	1,875	240	2,780

### Measles Vaccination

This nation-wide scheme continued during the year. It had been hoped that it would be widened to take in children of all age groups, but unfortunately a set-back occurred when a large batch of vaccine had to be recalled to the Ministry in the spring, thereby curtailing the whole programme. However, replacement vaccine was made available later in the year.

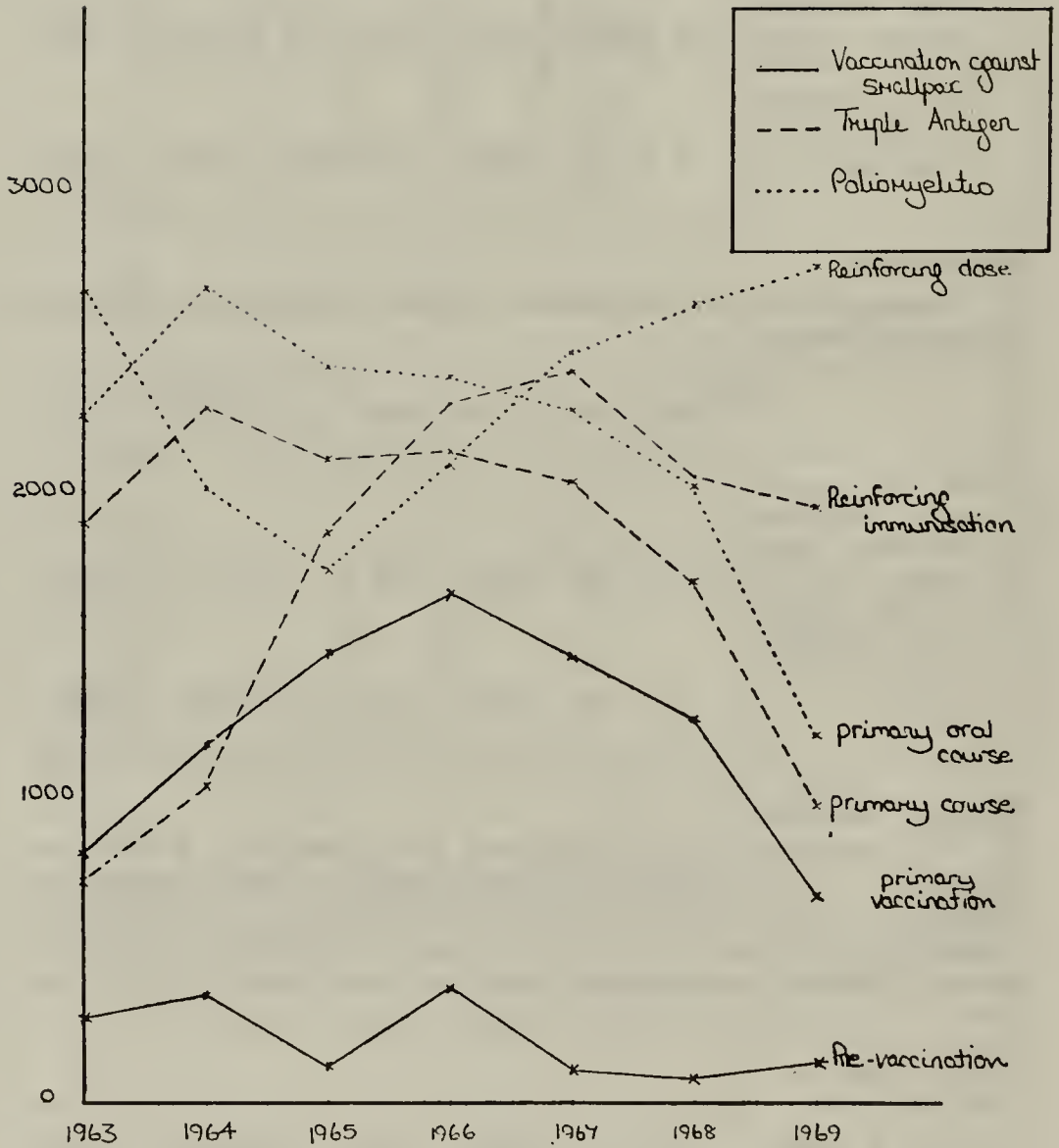
Children born in:

1969	1968	1967	1966	62/65	Under 16	Total
2	208	514	353	642	87	1,796

### Revised Schedule of Vaccination and Immunisation Procedures

It was recommended by the Minister of Health that a revised schedule should be substituted for schedules previously used, and this was brought into operation in September 1968. This revised schedule made several important modifications affecting the minimum age at which immunisation

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION



against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and poliomyelitis should begin, the spacing in the basic course of immunisation against these diseases, and the spacing of subsequent reinforcing doses. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation regarded these changes as desirable if an optimum immunological response to immunisation is to be obtained.

### Prevention of Illness Care and After Care (Section 28)

#### Recuperative Holidays

The amount provided for recuperative holidays was greatly reduced in 1969 because of financial restrictions on the various services. Recommendations for recuperative holidays were received from general practitioners and hospital consultants and holidays were arranged for 38 persons as compared with 55 in the previous year.

#### Chiropody

Chiropody treatment continued to be provided for the priority groups. Full establishment was attained by the appointment of two full-time Chiropodists.

The table below gives an indication of the work carried out during the year.

Category	New cases being treated during year	Cases being treated at end of year	Clinic attendances during year	Domiciliary treatment
Physically handicapped Aged 65 years and over	3 (13) 377 (393)	9 (35) 1,440 (1,302)	38 (74) 5,381 (4,344)	17 (71) 1,350 (1,249)
TOTALS	380 (406)	1,449 (1,237)	5,419 (4,418)	1,367 (1,320)

In addition to the work carried out at the Clinics and in domiciliary visits, regular service was provided at Mundy House and Chaplin Lodge, the County Council's old people's residential homes in the Basildon Urban District.

#### Extra Nourishment

The provision of one pint of milk per day free on the recommendation of the Chest Physician for patients suffering from chest complaints continued and 61 persons were receiving milk at the end of 1969.

#### Incontinence Pads and Draw Sheets

Disposable pads continued to be issued to incontinent persons nursed at home, draw sheets being provided as an alternative, if required.

#### Cervical Cytology

Cytology sessions were held weekly at Billericay, Great Oaks-Basildon and Wickford Clinics, and fortnightly at Pitsea and Crayland Clinics.

The service has also been provided at Yardley's Ltd., Basildon, and further consideration is being given to the provision of the test to women

in other local factories. This is a result of the findings that the incidence of carcinoma in situ and carcinoma of cervix is highest in social classes IV and V, but the proportion of attenders from these social groups has been relatively small.

Two thousand, two hundred and twelve examinations were carried out during the year of which two were positive. These and other conditions found at the time of attendance and requiring treatment have been followed up and women referred to their doctors. Examination of breasts is carried out at the same session as cervical cytology.

The increase in examinations during the year has been partly due to local publicity. Nevertheless, it was still possible to provide an appointment within four weeks. The slides taken in the area were submitted to the Pathology Laboratory at St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay, and the patients' general medical practitioners were notified of the result.

In addition to the local authority service, general practitioners offer the examination to their patients and the Family Planning Association include the test in the services they offer at their clinic sessions. (See detailed analysis on page 25).

### **Medical Arrangements for Long-Stay Immigrants**

#### **Ministry of Health Circular dated January 1965**

Notices were received from port medical authorities in respect of 26 long-stay immigrants whose destination addresses were in the Basildon Urban District. Arrangements were made for these persons to be contacted by the health visitor for the purpose of explaining facilities available under the Health Service and of persuading them to register with a medical practitioner and to arrange for a chest X-ray.

	1969	
Notices received	26	(19)
Successfully contacted	19	(15)
Returned to country of origin	1	(—)
Removed to other areas—address unknown	3	(—)
Removed to known addresses, notices forwarded to appropriate medical officers	—	(2)
Untraceable	3	(2)

### **Fluoridation of Water Supplies**

Although the Urban District Council support the principle of fluoridation of water supplies it was not possible to make any progress in implementing the Council's decision made in November 1965.

### **Home Help Service**

#### **(Section 29)**

The total hours worked by home helps in the year ended 31st December, 1969 was 93,545 of which 84,211 hours, i.e. 90%, was provided for persons aged 65 or over. This compared with 83,122 hours provided for aged persons in 1968.

A meeting of home helps took place at which the service generally was discussed and a film "Easing the Effort" was shown. A new series of courses for home helps was commenced and 12 home helps attended weekly for eight weeks and were addressed on a variety of subjects appertaining to their work, including "the place of the home help in the social services", "Care of the Elderly", "Help for the handicapped", "The Mentally ill", and "Fire hazards".



## ANALYSIS OF WOMEN ATTENDING LOCAL AUTHORITY CYTOLOGY SESSIONS DURING THE YEAR

	No. of births (including still births)	Age Group					All Ages	No. of repeat examinations carried out (All ages)
		Under 25 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and above		
Single	—	7	—	9	—	3	19	
Married	—	24	49	52	31	5	161	
	1	34	93	108	59	12	306	
	2	36	312	257	101	16	722	
	3	7	138	127	45	8	325	
	4	—	46	57	23	6	132	
	5 or more	1	14	25	16	8	64	
TOTALS	—	109	652	635	275	58	1,729	482

## Statistics

Requests for help from new cases during the year	486	(502)
Cases not eligible for assistance or not requiring service	155	(196)
New cases helped during the year	331	(306)
Cases being helped at the end of the year	681	(659)
Total cases helped during the year	990	(914)
Total number of hours of help provided during the year	93,545	(93,401)

The categories of cases helped during the year were as follows:

Chronic sick under 65 years of age	78	(61)
Aged 65 years of age or over	795	(732)
Maternity	57	(70)
Others (acute illness, mental disorders, problem families, etc.)	60	(51)

## Good Neighbour Service

The Good Neighbour Service continued to be considered for certain patients as an alternative to the Home Help Service and was used in some cases to supplement the Home Help Service. Its main function was to encourage the continuance of help by those already attending patients by providing a token payment.

During the year 46 patients were attended by Good Neighbours and 13 patients were still receiving service at the end of the year.

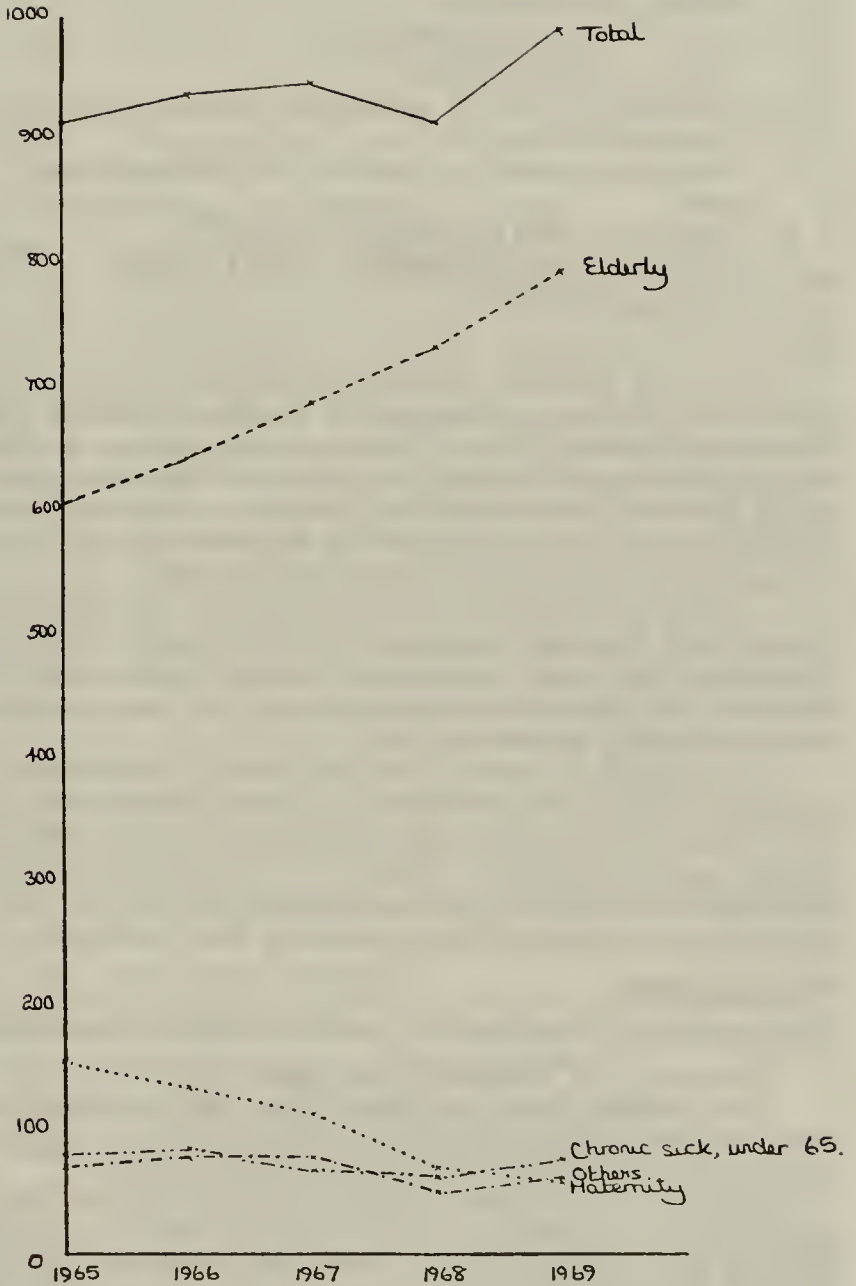
## Night Attendance Service

This service was available for the assistance of patients residing alone and requiring day and night attendance or for the relief of relatives caring for terminal patients. There were two requests for help during the year and 32½ hours attendance was provided.

## Staff

There were 114 Home Helps, including three whole-time helps, in service at the end of 1969.

The establishment of Home Help Organisers remained at two.

HOME  
HELP  
CASES



## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The work of 'Community Care' continued as usual during 1969.

The following figures relate to the work of the Mental Welfare Officers during the year.

	1969
1. Number of admissions	
(a) To psychiatric hospitals	117
(b) To other hospitals	6
2. Number of severely subnormal persons receiving community care	107
3. Number of subnormal persons receiving community care	55
4. Total visits paid to category (2) and (3)	1,378
5. Total visits paid in connection with (1) above	291
6. Visits to mentally ill	1,643

The work with the mentally subnormal continues to remain fairly static. A close liaison exists between the Mental Welfare Officers and the Elmbrook Training Centre. The above figures show a slight rise in the visiting to the mentally ill and it is anticipated that this aspect of the mental health work will increase steadily. Whenever possible the Mental Welfare Officers attend case conferences at Runwell Hospital held under the guidance of one of the Consultant Psychiatrists.

A Case Conference was arranged between Dr. Kaeser, Consultant Psychiatrist, Runwell Hospital, and the Mental Welfare Officers in December 1969, and it is proposed to hold regular monthly meetings so that this valuable link between hospital and community care can be expanded during the ensuing year.

The Psychiatric Social Club continues to be held every Wednesday evening at Bader House and there is an average attendance of 12 members. Two successful outings to Southend were arranged during the summer months and an enjoyable Christmas Party was held in December. An experiment in Old Time Dancing was held in November, and as this was greatly appreciated, further sessions have been arranged.

### Training Centres

#### The Supervisor of the Elmbrook Junior Training Centre reports:

The number of children on the register at the end of the year was 83.

Two children from the Special Care Unit progressed sufficiently to move into the main centre and two children were reassessed and have now settled down well in educationally subnormal schools.

There were very many varied activities throughout the year. These included regular swimming sessions which proved most beneficial. Three children have gained yellow ribbons for swimming the length of the learner pool and one girl has gone on to gain her certificate for swimming 220 yards.

Other popular and successful activities were inter-centre football and netball matches, the Annual Sports Day held in June and lessons on the trampoline.

In addition the staff who now specialize in the subjects for which they show a particular aptitude and interest have taken the children to very many places to follow up projects, e.g., airports, docks, ferry, seaside, zoos and various shops and showrooms.

Fourteen children submitted paintings for an International Exhibition. Of the seven who were selected for final judging, five were chosen to be on display at De La Rue House, Regent Street.

Christmas was a very busy time. A Show on December 10th and a party on December 17th both proved great successes. On December 18th the children had their own Carol Service in Holy Cross Church.

Once again we welcomed a growing number of visitors and students to the Centre. These included many from Teacher Training Colleges and Child Care Courses who spent varying periods in the Centre working and studying.

The year closed with a letter being sent to each parent outlining the work of the Centre. This was appreciated and it is hoped to establish a newsletter as a regular item.

### **The Supervisor of the Elmbrook Senior Centre reports:**

The number of trainees at the Centre at the end of the year was 76.

The Industrial Department continued to carry out contract work for the Ford Motor Co. Ltd., Spong & Co. Ltd., Scott's Dartboard Co. Ltd., Ilford Films Ltd., and G. R. Wren Ltd. The earnings from this work contributed towards a weekly wage for all the trainees. The woodwork department has increased the range of goods produced and the Arts and Crafts Department now include pottery and enamelling in their programme.

The Gardening Section has developed into a most constructive part of the training programme. A greenhouse which has been installed by the Basildon Rotary Club should be complete with heating by April 1970.

Many visits were made to local factories including Yardley's Ltd., where a considerable amount of goods were donated to the Centre. The girls have since had the opportunity to use the advice and commodities to help with make-up and general appearance, and the youths with shaving. As well as these visits, arrangements were made for discussions, filmshows and exercises in writing, simple monetary calculations and budgeting when shopping.

Other activities throughout the year included weekend camping at Danbury Park, Essex, the annual Sports Day, a Whit-Monday fete and inter-centre football matches.

In September a Sale of the trainee's work was held at the Ilford Film Factory, Brentwood, and in December a further sale was held at the Centre itself. Both proved very successful.

The year closed with the usual Christmas activities including a party held on 18th December.

## **WELFARE SERVICES**

### **Care of the Blind and Physically Handicapped (Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948)**

The work of promoting the welfare of the blind, deaf or dumb, and persons who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity continued during the year. Handicapped persons were visited in their homes by the four full-time Social Welfare Officers and a Welfare Assistant; adaptations and alterations to dwellings were undertaken where necessary; loan of equipment, aids and gadgets was arranged, assistance with holidays provided, and a wide variety of personal and social problems dealt with.

Bader House Occupational Centre provided facilities for physically handicapped persons to learn crafts such as basketwork, toy making, carpentry, etc., and the handicrafts class for the blind also moved into the Centre. Various local voluntary societies, mainly those concerned with

groups of handicapped persons, made use of the premises for evening social club meetings.

The social clubs for the blind and deaf and the old-time dancing classes for the blind enjoyed continued popularity.

A playgroup was organised one day a week during the summer holidays for handicapped children at Fryerns play area. These activities combined with special weekly early morning swimming sessions at Gloucester Park Pool proved very popular with both the children and their parents. The Pool continued to be hired by the Health Department on the first Saturday evening of each month, for the use of disabled persons.

### Physically Handicapped Register at 31st December 1969

Classification	M	F	Total
Amputees	15	14	29
Arthritis and Rheumatism	35	183	218
Congenital Deformities	5	6	11
Heart and Circulatory System:			
Digestive and Genito-urinary system	24	21	45
Respiratory System, Skin Diseases			
Injuries of Body and Head	22	15	37
Injuries of Limbs and Spine			
Ankylosing Spondylitis			
Nervous and Mental Disorders	5	1	6
Epileptics, Plegics, Spastics	80	78	158
Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy			
Parkinson's Disease, Poliomyelitis			
Tuberculosis, Respiratory and	4	2	6
Non-Respiratory			
Diseases and injuries not otherwise specified	8	10	18
TOTALS	197	341	538

### Blind Register at 31st December 1969

Classification	M	F	Total
Children aged 2-4 and at home	1	—	1
Children aged 5-15 and in special schools	—	2	2
Employed as homemaker	—	2	2
Employed otherwise	8	2	10
Unemployed – employable – trained for open employment	3	—	3
Unemployed – employable – trainable for open employment	3	—	3
Unemployed – employable – without training for employment	1	—	1
Not available for employment	—	10	10
Not capable of employment	11	4	15
Not working, over 65	37	89	126
TOTALS	64	109	173
Partially Sighted Register at 31.12.69	16	48	64



## **District Council Welfare Services**

### **National Assistance Act 1948 (Amendment) Act 1962**

#### **Day Centre for the Elderly**

The George Hurd Day Centre and central kitchen continued to expand during 1969 and by the end of the year was supplying meals to 13 different centres in addition to the five Meals on Wheels areas and those meals eaten at the Centre.

A peak for the year was reached during week ending 21st November when 2,533 meals were produced but this figure is expected to rise further during 1970.

The year saw a heavy turnover of staff at the Centre but it is hoped that the work study which was commenced during November will help to ease the strain on the staff, all of whom have worked particularly hard during the year, and thus stabilised the position.

A new manageress commenced her duties on 1st January, 1970 and a new clerical assistant is shortly due to commence at the Centre. At this time a programme of social activities during the afternoon should be developed for the visitors to the Centre.

#### **Other Services including Transport**

During 1969 an officer was appointed to administer the District Welfare functions in the department and together with the help of a part-time clerical assistant he has been able to co-ordinate this section of work and begin planning for the future.

1969 saw the donation to the Council of a tail-lift ambulance for carrying handicapped persons. This vehicle and the two minibuses now under my control are undertaking 70 programmed journeys per week carrying elderly and handicapped persons to clubs and centres and also on various outings organised both by clubs and my own staff. This service is also likely to expand further during 1970 and I am attempting to aim particularly at the more housebound elderly in an effort to occasionally give them a break from their home surroundings.

The Meals on Wheels Service operated by the W.R.V.S. continued to expand during 1969 and is now operating on three days per week in three of the five areas.

Books on Wheels were introduced during the year and this new service run by the W.R.V.S. is aiming at housebound persons providing both reading matter and social contact to the lonely.



**SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE**  
**(Divisional Administration) Scheme 1961**

**SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE**  
**(Divisional Administration) Scheme 1961**

**District School Population**

The school population for the district at the end of 1969 was 25,679; this compared with a figure of 24,711 in December 1968 and 23,413 in December 1967.

**School Medical Inspections**

The following table gives the number of children inspected by year of birth.

Age Group (in year of birth)	No. of Pupils Inspected	No. of Pupils with defects requiring treatment (excluding dental and vision)	Ratio of Pupils with defects to pupils inspected
1965 and later	5	1	1 : 5.00
1964	1,215	113	1 : 10.66
1963	1,131	120	1 : 9.42
1962	83	11	1 : 7.54
1961	15	—	1 : —
1960	504	60	1 : 8.30
1959	203	29	1 : 7.00
1958	5	1	1 : 5.00
1957	24	1	1 : 24.00
1956	9	1	1 : 9.00
1955	4	1	1 : 4.00
1954 and earlier	150	18	1 : 8.33
TOTALS	3,350	356	



### B.C.G. Vaccination

School children continued to participate in the scheme for vaccination in order to gain protection against tuberculosis and the table shows the vaccinations carried out:

Number of children skin tested	Positive Reactions at Preliminary Test		Number of children who received B.C.G. Vaccination
	Number	Percentage	
1,140 (1,609)	30 (113)	2.63 (7.0)	736 (1,460)

### Convalescent Holidays

Twenty-nine pupils received convalescent treatment under school health service arrangements.

### Treatment of Enuresis

During the year on the recommendation of Consultant Paediatricians and School Medical Officers, 103 children were provided with enuretic alarms. The Clinic Medical Officers instructed parents and children on the use of the equipment and supervised the treatment.

Children were referred from the following sources:

- School/Clinic Doctor
- Hospital Paediatrician
- General Practitioner
- Child Psychiatrist

### Provision of Chiropody Treatment for School Children

Under arrangements which existed prior to the transfer of functions chiropody was provided for school children as shown below:

No. of new cases treated during year	No. of cases being treated at end of year	No. of Clinic Attendances
74 (134)	— (28)	408 (558)

### Cleanliness Inspection in Schools

Cleanliness inspections continued to be carried out each term together with general hygiene surveys. Statistics are given below:

Total No. of Examinations	No. found infested for first time in current year	No. found re-infested during current year	No. of informal letters sent
37,702 (41,004)	79 (63)	23 (12)	Nil (3)

### Ascertainment of Handicapped Children

During 1969 no child between the ages of 5–15 was ‘ascertained’ as blind, partially sighted or deaf.

The number of children ascertained as requiring special educational treatment in other categories is as follows:

Partially Hearing	1
Delicate	3
Physically Handicapped	3
Maladjusted	16
Educationally Subnormal	25
Epileptic	1

### Ophthalmic Sessions

#### Statistics

##### (a) Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint

No. of cases dealt with:

Errors of refraction (including squint) 2,008 (1,670)

##### (b) Provision of Spectacles

No. of children for whom spectacles were prescribed

683 (587)

### Speech Therapy

##### (a) Pupils under treatment at end of 1969:

At Infant Schools	55	(47)
Junior Schools	28	(17)
Secondary Schools	12	(7)
Special Schools	14	(12)
Under 5 years	14	(22)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	123	(105)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

(b) No. of pupils, other than (a) treated during 1969 95 (44)



## Audiometry

## Statistics

	Under 5 years	5-6 years	7-11 years	12 years and over	Total
Routine Sweep Tests					
No. tested	—	3,682	182	—	3,864
No. failed test	—	139	10	—	149
Special Tests					
No. tested	25	69	128	18	240
No. failed test	5	35	38	11	89
Re-tests	—	48	25	6	79
No. failed tests	—	26	16	5	47

## Children referred to School Medical Officers:

	Under 5 years	5-6 years	7-11 years	12 years and over	Total
(i) Children referred 'At risk'	2	—	—	—	2
Failed audiometric test	4	74	68	9	155
Referred by G.P.	—	—	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	74	68	9	157
(ii) Number in (i)					
(a) Found to have normal hear- ing	3	42	52	5	102
(b) Normal hear- ing returned after treat- ment	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Referred to E.N.T. specialist	2	20	13	4	39
(d) Referred to Audiology Clinics	—	1	1	—	2
For repeat audiogram	1	11	2	—	14

## SPECIAL SCHOOLS

### Moat House Day E.S.N. School

Number on Roll December 1968	126
Number on Roll December 1969	113
No. ascertained as not suitable for education in school	1
Number left district	2
Number to Residential School	3
Number left at 16+	14
Number of New Entrants	28
Number on Waiting List	—
Number transferred to Castledon School, Wickford	19
Number transferred to Cedar Hall School, Thundersley	1
Number admitted to Chowdhary School	1

### Minor Ailments

Attention was given on 297 occasions, an increase due to influenza temperatures in December.

### Medical Inspection

Eight routine Medicals during which 66 children were seen.

### School Attendant

During the year children have been escorted to Great Oaks Clinic for:

Eye Clinic	4 visits	14 children
Dental Clinic	14 visits	49 children
Chiropodist	13 visits	28 children
Local doctor for emergency		3 children
Children taken home		10

### Convalescent Holidays

Six children were recommended – five went.

### Child Guidance

Consultation has been made as and when required, both at Great Oaks Clinic and in School.

### Speech Therapy

The services of a Speech Therapist were available for two half days per week during the school year.

### Castledon Special School for Educationally Subnormal Pupils

This new school opened in April 1969, and will eventually be able to accommodate 120 pupils. At the end of 1969 there were 25 pupils on roll.

### Fairview School, Basildon

This school opened on 9th September 1969, admitting 14 children whose ages ranged from six years to 13 years. A further admission a month later remained only for a short period in school before the family removed from the district.



There has been a very small incidence of illness. Occasional absences have been due to common colds

Minor ailments	- one case of mumps
Convalescent holidays	- nil
Children escorted to Clinics	- nil
Child guidance	- nil
Speech Therapy	- nil

## **CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC**

An extract from the report of Dr. Runes, the Medical Director, is set out below:

### **Staff Changes**

The Clinic is now fully staffed as regards psychiatric sessions. The two sessions which were attended by a Locum have now been filled with the addition of one extra session. This arrangement should help to keep our waiting list sufficiently low so as to avoid undue delay in seeing our patients. We now have our full quota of two Educational Psychologists but the social work for this Clinic as well as the Thundersley Clinic, has to be done by our only Social Worker. At the moment there seems to be no prospect of filling the vacancies of Psychiatric Social Workers or Social Workers.

### **Treatment**

We have a number of children who require regular psychotherapy, which we are not able to offer at present. The post of Psychotherapist has remained unfilled for a number of years. For those children who also show some educational failure we can offer attendance at our Tutorial Centre.

I have continued the long-standing co-operation with the Paediatrician of St. Andrew's Hospital by arranging regular Joint Clinics which are held alternately at the Basildon Clinic and St. Andrew's Hospital Outpatients' Department.

### **Meetings**

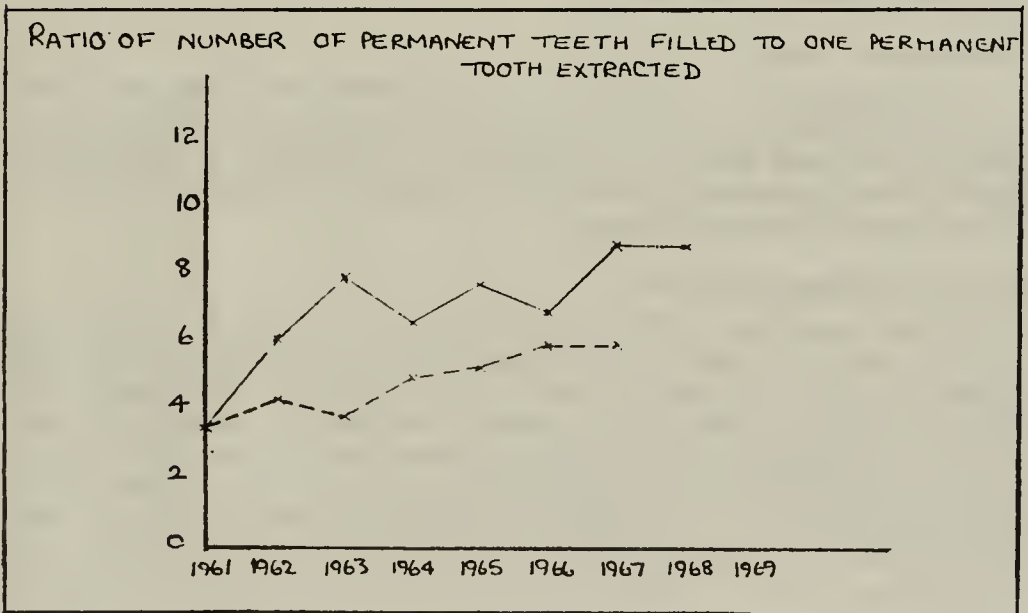
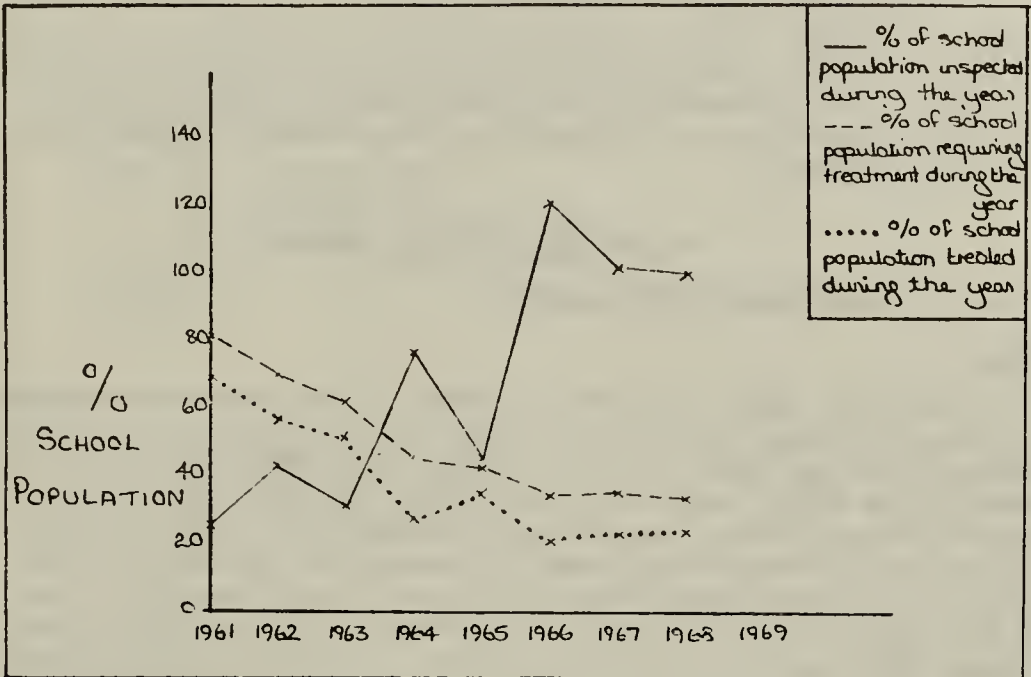
We had our regular clinical conferences which were occasionally attended by Headmasters, Children's Department Officers, School Counsellors and Probation Officers, who are concerned with some particular cases. We have also offered facilities for introducing to child psychiatry Health Visitors students, as well as students from colleges.

### **Referrals**

The number of referrals has remained almost stationary and it appears that we are about to reach a ceiling.

School refusals remained the often intractable problem particularly in young adolescents. As no Adolescent Unit has been established in this region we have to apply to other areas, in particular the Adolescent Unit in Kent, to help us with our difficult cases by admitting them. We have no difficulty at present with younger children as the two psychiatric units appear at the moment, adequate for the purpose. However, it becomes evident that a distant unit in Colchester or at Leytonstone is

# PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL POPULATION INSPECTED, FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT, TREATED



inappropriate for younger children who require hospital treatment but should not be separated over long periods from their parents. For these children a local placement if available, would be preferable.

### **Day School for Maladjusted Children**

We have welcomed the establishment of a local day school for maladjusted children which we hope will reduce the necessity for placing children, especially younger ones, away from their homes. The recently appointed second Consultant, Dr. Danos, is also entrusted with the psychiatric supervision and in that way a close connection with the Clinic can be maintained.

## **SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE**

### **The Supervisory Dental Officer reports:**

#### **Staff**

There were quite a number of changes in the staff of the Dental Department during the year. Two Dental Officers left the service (one full-time, one part-time), and one full-time Dental Officer and one part-time Dental Officer joined the Department. The Department lost the services of two full-time Dental Surgery Assistants, but was able to obtain the services of three Dental Surgery Assistants (one full-time, two part-time). There was no change in the very able and efficient Anaesthetic team. It is always a little disturbing to have changes of staff especially as the Dental Officers and Dental Surgery Assistant who left had provided such good services in the past, but the Department has been most fortunate in obtaining excellent replacements.

#### **Equipment of Clinics**

Old equipment was replaced where necessary, and some new items were introduced, thus helping to continue to keep the conditions of the service in the most modern vein possible. The planning of the Laindon Health Centre proceeded satisfactorily in relation to design and equipment of the relevant Dental Sections.

#### **General Treatment of Patients**

School inspections were maintained at a very high level, and this combined with six monthly recall inspections at the Clinics provided an excellent inspection system for the relevant sections of the Community. Comprehensive planning and treatment (involving all branches of conservative, orthodontic and prosthetic treatment) were given in the Clinics. Dental Health Education was maintained at the schools, Clinics and by personal instruction in the surgeries. It is regretted that one of the most vital preventive procedures for the reduction in tooth decay (i.e. the introduction of water fluoridation) has not been introduced in the Area.

#### **Staff Meetings and Courses**

Meetings of the Dental Surgery Assistants Association continued at the Clinics as in previous years, and, where possible, meetings of the members of the Dental Staff took place.

Encouragement was given to members of the staff to attend refresher courses, and courses leading to qualification certificates (in the case of the Dental Surgery Assistants).

**Statistics**

No. of Pupils inspected	No. requiring treatment	No. actually treated
24,640 (24,769)	8,277 (8,196)	6,888 (6,004)

No. of half-days devoted to inspection	509.4
No. of half-days devoted to treatment	2,180.9
Fillings (a) Permanent teeth	6,967
(b) Temporary teeth	3,856
No. of teeth filled (a) Permanent teeth	6,254
(b) Temporary teeth	3,652
Anaesthetics	
General	2,145

**Orthodontic Treatment**

Cases commenced during 1969	125
Cases completed during 1969	77
Pupils treated with appliances	152





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# ANNUAL REPORT 1969

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR





URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BASILDON

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC  
HEALTH INSPECTOR

1969

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M. A. LARGE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

# CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

## STAFF 1969

<b>Chief Public Health Inspector</b>	M. A. Large, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
<b>Deputy Chief Health Inspector</b>	M. J. Desmond, M.A.P.H.I.
<b>Senior District Health Inspector</b>	J. K. Blakeley, M.A.P.H.I.
<i>Housing, Clean Air and General</i>	
<b>District Public Health Inspectors</b>	G. G. Oxley, M.A.P.H.I. J. Holford, M.R.S.H. N. R. Jackson, M.A.P.H.I. J. E. Hillier, M.A.P.H.I.
<i>Food, Offices and Shops</i>	
<b>District Public Health Inspectors</b>	D. R. Cotgrove, M.A.P.H.I. D. Coyne, M.A.P.H.I. (resigned 30.6.69) H. A. Giddings, M.A.P.H.I. (appointed 11.8.69) D. G. Greenhalgh, M.A.P.H.I. N. Bannister
<i>Pupils</i>	
<b>Pupil Public Health Inspectors</b>	R. P. Robinson G. R. Courteney (appointed 29.9.69)
<i>Administration</i>	
<b>Principal Clerk</b>	J. W. Selvey, A.C.C.S., M.R.S.H.
<b>Senior Clerk</b>	Mrs. E. S. McAllister
<i>Secretarial</i>	
<b>Chief Health Inspector's Secretary</b>	Mrs. M. P. Smith
<b>Clerk/Typists</b>	Mrs. M. A. Loomes Mrs. G. E. Greenhalgh (appointed 20.1.69) Mrs. J. P. Strong
<b>General Clerk</b>	
<i>Manual Staff</i>	
<b>Leading Rodent Operative/General Assistant</b>	L. A. May
<b>Rodent Operatives/General Assistants</b>	G. Ridgwell L. Ridgwell
<hr/>	
<b>Public Analysts</b>	J. Hubert Hamence, O.B.E., M.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C. P. S. Hall, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
<b>Veterinary Advisers</b>	C. M. Newsholme, M.R.C.V.S. A. C. W. Fairhead, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S. C. A. G. Felgate, M.R.C.V.S. B. J. Smith, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.

Council Offices,  
98A High Street,  
Billericay,  
Essex.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Basildon,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on matters in the field of environmental health which have attracted the interest of my Department in 1969.

The year now reviewed is the first to be completed under the revised departmental organisation by which the Inspectorate has been divided into two sections, one team dealing with housing and general public health matters while the other specialises in food hygiene and allied duties involving visits to commercial premises.

It was believed that improved performance could be obtained by some greater degree of specialisation in the Department but the policy of individual specialisation was rejected because of lack of flexibility. Neither was it popular amongst the staff. The sectionalisation which was adopted has enabled the Department to deal, without loss of efficiency, with the ever increasing number of general public health complaints and food complaints, which is a feature of this expanding District, while at the same time it has been found possible to devote considerably more attention to and apply more uniform standards of inspection in food premises without any increase in staff.

The reorganisation has proved acceptable to the staff to whom I am indebted for their adaptability and enthusiasm. I acknowledge the co-operation received from officers of other departments in the preparation of this report. I am grateful also for the support of Members of the Welfare and Public Health Committee and particularly for that of its Chairman, Councillor L. Yorke, with whom it has been a pleasure to work closely throughout the year.

M. A. LARGE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



## NEW LEGISLATION

New Acts and Statutory Instruments affecting the Department which came into operation during the year are as follows:

### **The Smoke Control Area (Exempted Fireplaces) Order 1969**

This Order exempts the "Housewarmer" and Wood Chip Fixed Air Heater from the provisions of Section 11, Clean Air Act, subject to proper installation and operation.

### **The Clean Air (Height of Chimneys) Exemption Regulations 1969**

These Regulations exempt from certain provisions of Section 6 of the Clean Air Act 1968 boilers temporarily replacing plant under maintenance or repair, or providing a temporary source of heat during building operations, or in connection with research.

### **Consumer Protection - The Electrical Appliances (Colour Code) Regulations 1969**

These Regulations impose requirements in relation to certain domestic electrical appliances and introduce a new colour code for mains lead wiring.

### **The Canned Meat Product (Amendment) Regulations 1968**

These Regulations amend The Canned Meat Product Regulations 1967, relating to the meat content and labelling requirements for certain products.

### **The Sausage and Other Meat Product (Amendment) Regulations 1968**

These Regulations amend The Sausage and Other Meat Product Regulations, relating to labelling requirements and exempting a canned meat product after removal from its container.

### **The Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations 1969**

The Regulations replace the Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations 1960. Requires meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised before removal from the slaughterhouse or removed (with certain exceptions) to a processor for sterilisation. Also stipulates measures to be adopted to ensure safe transportation.

### **The Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act 1969**

The Act gives more effective powers to deal with statutory nuisances which have abated but are likely to recur.

### **The Clean Air Act 1968 (Commencement No. 2) Order 1969**

The Order brings into force on 1st October 1969 the remaining provisions of the Clean Air Act 1968 which did not become operative when the Act was introduced on 1st April 1969. These include prohibition of dark smoke from trade premises and controls regarding grit and dust arrestment.

### **Clean Air—The Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) Regulations 1969**

The Regulations declare two further solid smokeless fuels to be authorised fuels for the purpose of the Clean Air Act 1956.

### **The Food (Control of Irradiation) (Amendment) Regulations 1969**

These Regulations extend the exemptions of the principal Regulations to allow the irradiation of food for patients certified by their doctor to require a sterile diet.

### **The Housing Act 1969**

Sets out new provisions for grant aided improvement of old property and slum clearance. A new code for area improvement is introduced, and the Act also covers the rents of dwellings in good repair and multiple occupation.

## **GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

### **Water Supplies**

The statutory water undertakers for virtually the whole of the Urban District are the Southend Waterworks Company who report that no difficulties were experienced in maintaining a satisfactory supply of mains water to the District during 1969, nor do they foresee any problems in this respect in the immediate future. The population supplied by public water mains is now estimated at 122,760 and 39,143 dwelling units received a direct supply.

Daily examinations were made of water going into supply from the works at Langford and Hanningfield and fortnightly analyses of water from wells and bore holes were made by the Company's resident chemists. In addition, my Department took routine check samples from the main in different parts of the Urban District. On all occasions the water was found to be satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically. The typical sample shows the water to be clear and bright in appearance, slightly alkaline in reaction and free from metals. Hardness is moderate and it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. The water supply derived from river sources has a natural fluoride content of 0.25 ppm. The underground sources comprise the 11 bore holes in the Urban District, six of these are in use mainly during the summer months, the remaining five are pumped into the water supply after treatment at the Vange Treatment Plant and are in almost continual use. The fluoride content from the bore holes ranges from 0.7 to 3.7 ppm.

There was no evidence of contamination of water supplied by the Company and only one complaint was received during the year. This concerned taste in the water supply to a property on a bore hole supply and although a sample showed that the bacterial quality was unaffected, the cause was thought to be due to disturbance of deposits in an old main. Fortunately the taste has not recurred and the Water Company's scheme to renew this main in the near future should remedy the situation.

Other samples taken by the Department included water from a storage tank of a large block of flats in the New Town following flooding of the basement pump room by sewage, and a check on the suitability of spring well water used to irrigate a watercress bed.

### **Water Main Extensions**

The deletion of the Kingston Ridge area from the Revised New Town Master Plan gave the Council the opportunity to proceed with a water main extension of 290 yards in Southway, Langdon Hills. Requests for this extension had been received in past years but the uncertainty of development in the designated area had necessitated its deferment. Regret-

tably the Welfare and Public Health Committee had no alternative but to again defer any extension in Rushbottom Lane and Woodside Avenue, North Benfleet. The pollution of underground rainwater storage tanks in the Rushbottom Lane area during the floods of September 1968 highlighted the water supply problems facing the occupiers of these properties, but here again the Council have to reconcile their duties as a Public Health Authority with the possibility of abortive expenditure on a shortlived project.

The connection of individual properties to mains laid last year in Elm Road, North Benfleet and Osborne Road, Bowers Gifford was completed.

Two and a half miles of 3in.-9in. diameter mains were laid in the Urban District by the Southend Waterworks Company.

### **Water Deliveries**

The fine summer of 1969 resulted in several periods of drought and the Council's emergency water delivery service for replenishing the storage tanks at properties without mains supply was under heavy pressure. Fifty-nine thousand six hundred gallons was supplied to 25 properties involving a total of 149 separate deliveries.

### **Standpipes**

Forty-four persons rented keys for the Council's 20 standpipes which are still in use and there are a further 39 current key holders for the eight standpipes in the Langdon Hills area which are the responsibility of the Southend Waterworks Company.

The problem of vandalism and misuse of standpipes is growing, particularly in the "twilight" areas before development and it is not uncommon to find doors wrenched off, locks broken and supply pipes cut and leaking. In one instance, the standpipe had to be repaired five times in the course of a few months. Since for many keyholders the Council's standpipe may be the only source of drinking water constant vigilance is necessary to ensure a supply is always available. Every standpipe is inspected quarterly as a routine measure and forthwith upon complaint.

### **Swimming Pools**

Regular visits were made by my staff to each of the school pools, the Council's public swimming pool at Gloucester Park and the three open air children's paddling pools situated in Council recreation grounds. Frequent tests were made to check the chlorine content and pH value of the water in all pools in use. A weekly return of the results of daily tests of the water carried out by the school's staff is submitted to this Department by each school. These returns serve as a useful guide to the general condition of the water at each of the pools during the periods between visits made by my Inspectors.

A new outdoor swimming pool was opened at Chowdhary School, Basildon during the year and this has brought the total number of school pools in this District to 12, three of which are indoor pools. The new pool measures 50ft. by 20ft. and is equipped with high speed sand filters and an automatic chlorination unit. The water is heated by the school heating plant. The pool did not come into use until the end of September and consequently was only used for a few weeks before being closed down for the winter. However, this brief period of use provided useful experience to the staff who are responsible for the maintenance of the pool enabling them to become familiar with the filtration and chlorination equipment.



On the advice of this Department the pool at Billericay School was not brought into use at all this year. At the beginning of the season an inspection revealed that scaffolding for an extension to the existing school building had been erected immediately adjacent to the swimming pool and that the pool surround was badly damaged and uneven. The changing rooms and the footbath had been removed to allow for further work to proceed and no screening was provided to prevent builders' rubble, dust, etc., from gaining access to the pool. It was also found that the pool was leaking.

At Laindon School the re-opening of the swimming pool was delayed until June to allow for the installation of a calorifier to heat the water. Unfortunately, building work all round the pool created difficulties in keeping the pool water and surrounds in a clean and satisfactory condition and interfered with the footpath drainage arrangements. This resulted in the pool being closed down quite early in the season.

The headmaster of one school consulted the Department about a complaint that the hair of one of his pupils had turned green after she had been swimming in the school pool. Before the headmaster was able to examine the child's hair the parents had it dyed and he was unable to confirm that there had been any change in colour. Soon after this incident one of the teachers reported that a white nylon swimming costume which she had been wearing in the pool had discoloured to a very pale shade of green. A full analysis of the water revealed a total chlorine content of 30 ppm with a combined reading of 20 ppm. The Analyst commented that the probable reason for the high amount of residual chlorine in the sample was due to its stabilisation by sulphamic acid which had been introduced into the pool to control the pH value of the water. He found that this amount of chlorine would have a tendency to bleach some materials but tests on six samples of hair had not produced any discolouration. The pool was drained and refilled and no further problem has arisen. In spite of this excessive chlorine figure no complaints appear to have been made concerning irritation to the eyes.

Ozonating equipment was temporarily installed at the Gloucester Park Swimming Pool for a trial period during the year. The Baths staff reported an improvement in the atmosphere in the pool areas, spectators' gallery and changing rooms and the Council decided upon a permanent installation. At one stage it had been suggested that the ventilation system could be operated at a reduced rate if this equipment were installed, a proposal which was opposed by my Department, it being considered that any reduction in the rate of air change designed for the building could prove detrimental.

Complaints were received early in the year concerning the misuse of the Council's paddling pools in the recreation grounds. Mud, stones, glass and other rubbish were being thrown into the water and dogs would frequently find their way into the pools. Maintaining these pools in satisfactory condition involved the Parks staff in a considerable amount of extra work and as a result of these difficulties the paddling pools sometimes had to be drained during the week and brought back into use only at week-ends.

### **General Nuisances**

The investigation of public health nuisances still occupies a considerable proportion of an Inspector's working day and in 1969, 4,379 visits were made in the course of investigating 793 complaints.

Obstructed or defective house drains and private sewers accounted for 181 complaints and although these mainly emanate from the private housing sector, properties in Basildon New Town have produced their share of troubles. Instances of indifferent design or workmanship have been noted. No doubt the drainage system figures low in the builder's list of priorities in the modern house compared with a central heating system and the fitted kitchen. Also the use of pitch fibre pipes in drainage work has brought simplicity to a job which formerly demanded the pride of workmanship of the skilled drain layer. However, my Department inherits any problems caused by shortcomings in design or installation and it is galling to be called upon to deal with emergency drain and sewer blockages which might have been avoided given proper attention at the installation stage.

The diversion or obstruction of natural land drainage by new development may also create problems. It gives no satisfaction to an occupier of a new house to inform him that he must accept surface water drainage from land higher than his own when his garden or, to quote one recent case, his garage floor is under water at certain times of the year. There is a need for developers to take careful account of land drainage before development, and when it is proposed to pipe open ditches, to obtain the Council's approval to the plan so ensuring that pipes of adequate size are used.

Perhaps the most unusual complaint received this year referred to "legs and arms dumped on waste land". With visions of appearing as witness for the prosecution in a front page murder trial, my Inspector proceeded to the scene of the crime but could discover only a few parsnips, presumably left by a passing greengrocer.

The long, hot summer accentuated the problems of piggeries situated close to residential development. The main sources of nuisance from these establishments are the swill boiling plant and the occasional removal of manure. Smell from the swill boiling process and from the sties can be reduced by the use of modern odour-masking compounds, but having taken all practical steps in this direction it is our experience that the best will in the world will not always avoid a certain agricultural odour pervading the neighbourhood given a hot day and a prevailing wind from the appropriate quarter. In many acute cases alternative development of the land occupied by the piggery appears to be the only lasting solution.

A potential emergency situation for which 1969 will be remembered was that threatened by the refuse collectors strike. Fortunately in this Urban District the refuse collection service was back to normal after two-three weeks of non-collection but the public health nuisance potential in this type of situation is considerable and almost immediately the strike commenced the Health Inspectors were diverted from their routine duties to deal with the public health aspects. In order to prevent the situation getting out of hand, particularly on premises where a very large amount of putrescible refuse was produced, inspection priorities were directed to large food preparation premises such as factory canteens, supermarkets in the Town Centre, and refuse disposal arrangements at the three Markets. It was also felt that trouble might arise in large blocks of flats with refuse chutes where, from past experience, tenants would continue to use them despite the containers being full. Apart from the public health nuisance there was a real risk of fire in this situation and an early liaison with the Housing Manager of the Basildon Development Corporation and the various caretakers was arranged.



With the possibility of large piles of refuse accumulating in various parts of the District, the Department's stocks of insecticides and masking compounds were augmented as undoubtedly complaints of smell would arise if dumping of refuse became widespread.

Towards the end of the first week of the strike, inspections of all the major food premises had been completed and the attention of Inspectors was directed to checking refuse arrangements in the smaller food shops.

With one or two exceptions the majority of the food traders had made alternative arrangements and in the case of multiple branches an approach to the head office usually resulted in some positive action being taken. Co-operation from occupiers of business premises and members of the public during this difficult period was quite exceptional and surprisingly very little serious dumping of refuse occurred.

Two hundred and ninety-six visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors to deal with refuse disposal problems during the period of the strike.

### **Essex County Council (Canvey Island Approaches, etc.) Act 1967— Section 46**

This Section was enacted to control conditions of refuse disposal and the prevention of nuisances at privately owned tips. A person operating a private tip requires the consent both of the Essex County Council and of the Council in whose area the tip is situated.

The Land Reclamation Company Tip at Pitsea is subject to this legislation and following meetings with representatives of the Company and discussions with the County Health Inspector, consent was issued on 9th May 1969. Apart from the standard conditions common to both consents detailing methods of disposal, tip management, vermin control and fire prevention procedures, the Consent issued to the Land Reclamation Company by Basildon Council included a clause requiring prior approval by the Chief Public Health Inspector for the deposit of any toxic wastes and hazardous materials.

A procedure has been set up for dealing with such applications including liaison with the Essex River Authority regarding the possibility of pollution of both surface and underground waters, taking into account also the interests of the Port of London Authority and the local Water Companies.

Vast quantities of liquid chemical and industrial wastes are disposed of here and these are being investigated.

### **Noise Control**

Sixty-one complaints of noise were received by the Department, the most frequent sources of nuisance being industrial premises, neighbours and dogs.

Attention must be given to the curtailment of noise at the planning stage. All plans of proposed development are passed to my Department for comment and this liaison by the Engineer and Surveyor's Department is absolutely essential. In the case of proposed laundrettes, a frequent source of complaint, a standard list of anti-noise measures is brought to the attention of the developer. However, despite these safeguards, changes in industrial processes, the installation of new machinery and the inevitable human element result in noise emission from premises which hitherto had caused no trouble.

Considerable time was spent this year in dealing with a series of complaints of noise which were ultimately traced to the Research Centre at Dunton. Although it might be thought that this large industrial complex was ideally situated away from the main centres of population, it was evident that given the right conditions, noise can travel remarkable distances. Residents in Laindon and Basildon, some living as much as two to three miles apart, complained of a noise which they described as a whining and droning causing them disturbance during the night. Complainants had different ideas as to the direction of the noise and initially it was difficult to establish the source but this was eventually traced to the dynamometer building in the Research Centre. Motor car engines are bench tested at various revolutions in cells within the dynamometer block and although sound attenuation measures were incorporated in this building at the design stage, it was found that there was a tendency for the employees to leave certain doors open during the hot weather thus nullifying any noise insulation measures. The effectiveness of silencers on certain cells was suspect and noise was being transmitted from the sewage works plant room. Full co-operation was received from the Ford Motor Company during these investigations and all the Department's recommendations were implemented. These included the closure of all of the dynamometer cell doors during test operations, the fitting of additional silencers and a complete overhaul of all exhaust systems to eliminate resonance and vibration. Towards the end of the year complainants reported a marked improvement both during the day and night.

Whilst the Noise Abatement Act 1960 does not enable a local authority to deal very effectively with transient noise nuisance, the additional powers now provided by the Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act 1969 will afford greater control in certain cases. However, action to deal with noisy neighbours can really only be taken by the unfortunate person affected. The present Good Rule and Government Bye-laws regarding noise from radios, gramophones, etc., is of little value in dealing with noisy parties since it allows a two-week period during which the noise has to continue before the complainant can serve a notice. With the increased sales of amplifiers and stereograms, the need for noise at all cost at parties appears to be a modern trend and it is evident from complaints received in the Department that frequent noisy parties continuing into the small hours of the following day can cause serious distress to persons living nearby. The Council therefore made representations to the Essex County Council suggesting an application to the Home Office for an amendment to this Bye-law by which an offence would be committed if the nuisance were repeated within six months after the date of the service of a notice signed by not less than three householders.

A further circular was received from the Minister of Housing and Local Government requesting the Council to report on the extent and effectiveness of the measures they have taken to combat industrial noise and to comment on any difficulties which had been encountered because of the inadequacy of the existing law. The Council's reply suggested that steps should be taken to deal with short-term nuisances, making unnecessary noise a direct offence as in the case of ice cream vendors' chimes. It was felt that this would be a deterrent if the prescribed fine were adequate whereas the present nuisance procedure is cumbersome and ineffective.

## RODENT CONTROL AND DISINFESTATION

### Rodent Control

The routine work of dealing with infestations of rats and mice in the Urban District was maintained satisfactorily and despite the population growth the total of 483 infestation reports shows no significant increase over the previous four years. The free service for private dwellings was continued and treatment to 86 industrial and trade premises was carried out on a rechargeable basis. Thirty-two premises were dealt with by annual contract and a further 34 premises, including several Council undertakings such as sewage works, pumping stations and the refuse tip, were subject to routine survey at three-monthly intervals.

Routine Spring and Autumn treatments of sewers in the designated New Town Area were carried out under contract for the Basildon Development Corporation and out of a total of 493 manholes tested on the foul and surface water systems, 15 were found to be infested. It was possible to give some attention to the Council's sewerage system this year and infestation was found in 17 out of 340 manholes tested in parts of Wickford, Laindon and Pitsea. Although the use of a specially prepared Warfarin bait in sewers has reduced the need for rigorous pre-baiting, the process of checking and rechecking baiting points did occupy a considerable proportion of the men's time which perhaps is better indicated by the 2,343 sewer covers lifted in the course of testing 833 manholes.

Rat infestations frequently occur in the vicinity of lay-bys on the Southend Arterial Road within the Urban District and these are undoubtedly aggravated by the indiscriminate rubbish dumping, particularly in the summer months, which appears to be a permanent feature of these sites despite the provision of refuse containers. I informed the County Surveyor of the Essex County Council that in my view the only effective way of dealing with this hazard was by regular and intensive rodent control treatment. Following his consultation with the Ministry of Transport, since this involved a major trunk road, I am pleased to report that a suitable annual contract has now been negotiated under which my Department provides such a service at the expense of the County Council. The problem of rubbish and rat infestations at lay-bys on major trunk roads is not confined to the eight miles of the A127 through Basildon and it may be that co-ordination between the Ministry and Local Authorities in this matter could usefully be repeated elsewhere.

The vehicle used by my Senior Rodent Operative is now fitted with mobile radio telephone enabling constant contact to be maintained throughout the day, an innovation which is proving most useful in dealing swiftly with minor emergencies as they arise.

### Disinfestation

Two hundred and seventeen complaints of insect infestations were received in the Department and this involved the Public Health Inspectors in 535 visits to identify specimens and give advice on the appropriate treatment. Eighty-three of the notifications concerned bed bug and flea infestations and the affected premises were disinfested at a nominal charge.

The service for the destruction of wasps' nests free of charge was maintained and 154 nests were dealt with by the Rodent Operatives during the season.

Whilst the problem of feral pigeons in Basildon is not great, several complaints were received this year and in two cases the nuisance was



sufficient to warrant action by the Council. The 1961 Public Health Act gives Local Authorities the power, but not the obligation, to control pigeons. The birds are rarely implicated as a danger to public health but have acquired a pest status on economic grounds associated with damage and disfigurement to property and reduction of amenity.

Treatments in previous years have been confined to the use of stupefying bait in order to narcotise the birds prior to killing. This method had only met with partial success and it was therefore decided to experiment with trapping using a specially made pigeon trap designed by the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Ministry designed trap was first used to deal with a minor infestation on the roof of Brooke House in the Town Centre, and this met with little success in the first few weeks, probably due to the lack of weathering of the trap. However, two months later a total catch of 13 pigeons had satisfactorily dealt with the problem. Greater success was obtained at the second site where over a two-month period in mid-summer 34 pigeons were trapped. As a further measure to avoid nuisance from birds the Housing Manager of the Basildon Development Corporation notifies me of all applications from tenants who propose to erect aviaries or pigeon lofts and approval is only given subject to the Department's recommendations.

The dry summer brought several complaints of snakes having been seen on waste land and grassed areas. Although the complainants invariably refer to poisonous adders, these are relatively rare and it is probable that the majority of snakes seen are in fact common grass snakes. Snakes are not classed as vermin and do not come within the scope of The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, nor are they classified as land pests to agriculture; in fact they are considered a benefit to mankind in controlling the insect population. Snakes seldom stray on to open land and the only measures available to a Local Authority are to ensure that grass on landscaped areas, playingfields and parks is kept short.

#### Visits carried out by Rodent Operatives/General Assistants:—

Rodent control—Contracts	..	..	..	..	..	295
Rodent control—Domestic dwellings and general survey	..	..	..	..	..	2,850
Rodent control—Trade premises	..	..	..	..	..	336
Rodent control—Agriculture	..	..	..	..	..	88
Rodent control—Council premises	..	..	..	..	..	172
Rodent control—Sewer test baiting	..	..	..	..	..	2,343
Welfare—Minibus	..	..	..	..	..	127
Welfare—Sick room equipment, clinics, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	1,362
Vermin	..	..	..	..	..	105
Removal of condemned foods	..	..	..	..	..	172
Disposal of dead animals	..	..	..	..	..	182
Drain investigations	..	..	..	..	..	77
Disinfecting after infectious disease	..	..	..	..	..	3
Destruction of wasps' nests	..	..	..	..	..	156
Incontinent laundry service	..	..	..	..	..	3,928
Post—inter departmental deliveries	..	..	..	..	..	614
Disposal of night soil	..	..	..	..	..	274
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	205

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13,289

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Laundry Service for Incontinent Persons**

The demand for this service was maintained and 55 new cases were accepted during the year. The number of patients receiving the service at any one time was 46 and a total of 14,338 articles were laundered at Runwell Hospital. There is no doubt that the service is very much appreciated and is of great assistance to both patients and their families in difficult times.

### **National Assistance Act 1948—Section 50**

During the year two funerals were undertaken by the Council's funeral contractor, one by burial and the other by cremation. In carrying out the duty placed on them under this Section the Council's policy is for cremation except in cases where there is reason to believe that this might be contrary to the wishes of the deceased or any known relative.

### **Consumer Protection**

Ten samples of children's toys and paints used in manufacture were purchased for testing under the Toys (Safety) Regulations 1967. The Regulations, which initially only prescribed the maximum amount of lead content in paint used on toys, are now fully operative and control is now extended to prescribe the maximum contents of arsenic, soluble antimony, soluble barium, soluble cadmium and soluble chromium allowed in the paint. These standards apply to all toys offered for sale irrespective of the date of manufacture.

Fifty-seven visits were made by the Inspectors on consumer protection matters covering a variety of subjects from foreign matter in dog food to alleged scalp injury at a ladies' hairdressers. Where it is felt that action might be considered appropriate under the Trades Descriptions Act the complaint is passed to the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures and, in other cases, whilst there may be no statutory action available to the Council, informal investigation and advice often results in a satisfactory conclusion.

Six samples of nightdresses were purchased and forwarded to an approved laboratory for testing in accordance with the procedure laid down in The Nightdresses (Safety) Regulations 1967. All samples were found to satisfy the flammability requirements of the Regulations.

### **Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963**

There are 11 establishments licensed under this Act in the Urban District for the boarding of cats and dogs. The maximum number of animals that can now be accommodated on licensed premises is 442 dogs and 155 cats. Each establishment received bi-annual visits by the Council's Veterinary Adviser and a member of my staff, and additional check visits were made during the peak boarding season.

Problems have arisen at certain of the establishments in the provision of sufficient accommodation to deal with the overlap of bookings at the busy week-ends, and proprietors have been encouraged to provide additional kennels over and above the maximum approved for the licence in order to avoid overcrowding at peak periods. When the Act first came into force it was decided that rather than burden owners of boarding kennels with heavy costs of total reconstruction, a policy of continual



improvement should be adopted each time the licence was due for renewal. The benefits of this approach are now apparent and in general a satisfactory standard has now been achieved.

### **Riding Establishments Act 1964**

The one remaining licensed premises closed in July this year and there are now no riding schools in the Urban District.

### **Pet Animals Act 1951**

Eleven licences permitting persons to keep pet shops were issued during the year.

### **Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964**

The Department is responsible for maintaining a register of persons carrying on a business in the Urban District as scrap metal dealers and the address of each place which is occupied by the dealer as a scrap metal store. The responsibility for the enforcement of the Act falls to the police. Before a person is registered a check is made with the Engineer and Surveyor's Planning Section to ensure that any planning conditions have been complied with.

There are eleven scrap metal dealers on the current register comprising six itinerant collectors and five occupiers of scrap metal stores within the Urban District.

### **Planning Applications**

Two hundred and seventy plans were examined in the Department during the year and observations on public health aspects made to the Engineer and Surveyor or direct to the developer.

### **Health Education**

Several talks on specialist aspects of environmental health and the work of the Department were given by the Public Health Inspectors during the year. Lectures were given to school children at secondary schools and the Department provided speakers to local women's groups to talk on the work of the Public Health Inspector. As part of the syllabus for the G.C.E. and C.S.E. examinations in biology a short course of lectures on technical subjects was given to fifth form pupils at Barstable School.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

The Engineer and Surveyor has kindly provided information regarding these services.

A foul water sewer has now been provided to serve properties at the western end of London Road, Billericay.

The scheme for the provision of foul water sewers to Ramsden Bellhouse and parts of London Road, Wickford and Crays Hill, was started under construction during 1969. Similarly, the contract for the extension of Shotgate Sewage Treatment Works was started but has since suffered delay due to the Contractor's Company going into liquidation.

Approval could not be obtained during 1969 for the surface water drainage scheme in the Shotgate area but the Ministry of Housing and Local Government has indicated that approval may now be given enabling a start to be made in 1970.

During the year a major part of the sludge dewatering plant at Pitsea was constructed and the plant is intended to be operational in 1970.

The design for Pitsea Sewage Treatment Works enlargement was continued in 1969 and a contract for the work is intended to be let during 1970.

## **HOUSING**

### **Rehousing**

The total number of applicants on the Council's housing list at the 31st December 1969 was 853 and 250 cases were approved during the year. Eight hundred and ninety-nine families were accommodated by the Basildon Development Corporation and 402 applicants were rehoused in Council dwellings. The total number of Council houses is now 4,107, the Basildon Development Corporation own 16,122.

Close liaison was maintained with the Housing Manager in all cases where the conditions of the applicant's dwelling may have some bearing on his case, and the method by which we mutually assess the degree of priority to occupiers of properties subject to Demolition or Closing Orders continued to operate satisfactorily.

One hundred and twelve visits were made by members of my staff in connection with overcrowding and rehousing enquiries.

### **Unfit Houses**

At the commencement of the year and in advance of the Royal Assent being given to the Housing Act 1969, the Ministry had requested local authorities to act as soon as possible on the recommendations of the Government White Paper "Old Houses Into New Homes", and to survey their districts to assess the degree of unsatisfactory housing and the need for improvement areas.

Priority was given to carrying out a pilot survey of the older housing in the District, together with an assessment of the number of dwellings capable of improvement. Consequently, when Circular 92/69 was issued in November, requesting local authorities to consider what they could do to clear their remaining slums and to provide details of their programme over the next four years, the Department had already collated much of the basic information required.

It is estimated that there remain 81 properties in the Urban District which are unfit and likely to be considered for Demolition or Closing Orders over the next four years. It must be pointed out, however, that some 35 of these properties are owner/occupied and these will undoubtedly cause a problem from the humanitarian aspect. Inflated property values may also, in many of these cases, preclude action under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957 when detailed costing and valuations are prepared. It is not precisely known how many properties are capable of improvement but from an earlier survey it was estimated that some 500 further properties were either defective or lacking amenities.

Formal or informal action under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957 resulted in 16 unfit properties being demolished and two Closing Orders being made. Three Undertakings in lieu of Demolition or Closing Orders were accepted.

## **Standard Improvement Grants**

Forty-eight applications were dealt with during the year, each property being subjected to a joint inspection by one of my Inspectors and a member of the Engineer and Surveyor's staff. My Department is concerned with the fitness of the dwelling for human habitation and where the premises are found to fall short of the Housing Act standard, a specification of work required to be carried out is passed to the Engineer and Surveyor before approval of the grant application.

## **Housing Defects**

The Public Health Inspectors made 1,848 visits in connection with housing matters and 147 complaints of housing defects were received during the year. Sixty-three of these complaints were made by occupants of New Town properties and of this figure 46 related to damp conditions.

The Winter of 1969 was a particularly bad period for condensation which, in recent years, has become one of the major causes of dampness in dwellings in the Urban District, taking precedence over rain penetration and rising ground moisture.

Modern trends in building design and construction lend themselves more readily to condensation conditions. The disappearance of the open fire results in inadequate ventilation of many rooms and the wider use of dense, less absorbent material in finishings and construction on both walls and floors, and the vast areas of glazing now incorporated in modern houses, are in part responsible. However, responsibility also falls on the occupier to ensure that the dwelling is evenly heated throughout the day and thus avoid the sudden rise in temperature and humidity in the evening. The means of heating is also important, flueless oil and gas burning appliances are in more widespread use emitting high quantities of water vapour and very often, in properties in Basildon New Town, these appliances are used instead of the electric underfloor heating system provided.

My experience with condensation problems in Basildon makes it clear that the initial responsibility lies with the architect. Picture windows and single glazing to floor level in unheated bedrooms may give the house an aesthetic appeal when viewed from the exterior on a hot day in July, but conditions in the interior of the same dwelling on a cold, damp morning in February would dispel the illusion of the architect's original concept.

Authority for the service of Statutory Notices in respect of defects to property was obtained in 13 cases.

## **Rent Act 1957—Certificates of Disrepair**

No applications were received in the year under review and only 30 have been dealt with since the coming into operation of the Act. The new Qualification Certificate under the Housing Act 1969 for obtaining the conversion of controlled tenancies to regulated tenancies where the qualifying standard is attained, will replace this little used procedure.

## **Land Charges Act 1925**

One thousand, eight hundred and thirty-seven searches in respect of properties were dealt with by the Department during the year.



## CLEAN AIR

### Domestic Smoke Control Programme

The Basildon No. 8 Smoke Control Order covering the eastern part of Billericay became operative on 1st November 1969. This forms a natural extension of the No. 7 Area of South Green and comprises 1,705 private dwellings on the Chantry and Waltham Forest Estates, Sunnymede, Hillside Road and new development in the vicinity of Jacksons Lane. Three thousand, five hundred and thirty-five visits were made on clean air matters, a high proportion of these being in connection with grant applications and approvals.

The rise in the retail price of appliances since the maximum limits for grant were fixed by the Ministry in 1966, has brought even the price of the cheapest appliance very close to the amount allowable and these cost limits are in need of revision. Also it does seem anomalous that grants should continue to be available for the installation of the improved open fire when, within the same smoke control area, other occupiers are able to claim grant to have similar appliances replaced by those of more modern design.

Proposals for the No. 9 Smoke Control Order were reported to the Welfare and Public Health Committee in October. This area covered a further 400 acres on the west side of Billericay High Street, and comprised approximately 1,750 dwellings and commercial premises. The Regional Representatives of the Gas and Electricity Boards could foresee no difficulties in supplying additional consumers. However, the position regarding the supply of solid smokeless fuel to the area could not be guaranteed, and furthermore, the Regional Officer of the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation indicated that the supply position was unlikely to improve before the Spring of 1971. In the light of this information, the Committee decided to defer the consideration of the No. 9 Order for a period of twelve months.

Thus the furtherance of smoke control throughout the country has come to a standstill. The basic concepts of clean air have been deferred for at least two years. In European Conservation Year this is a regrettable state of affairs and it is even more unfortunate this situation should have arisen within a few months of the coming into force of provisions under the Clean Air Act 1968 giving the Minister power to require a local authority to prepare a programme of smoke control for their area.

It was evident once the Winter was upon us that not only was the smokeless fuel situation affecting proposed smoke control areas, but that even supplies to existing smoke control areas were in a very delicate position. Whilst the situation had not reached serious proportions in Basildon there was evidence of pockets of shortages particularly amongst the smaller merchants and the reserve supplies needed to cope with severe Winter weather seem far from satisfactory.

At the annual conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors this year one delegate suggested that all solid smokeless fuel appliances should be designated as unsuitable because of the shortage of smokeless fuel and that local authority smoke control programmes should be allowed to continue, relying on oil, gas and electricity. Whilst this may seem a radical view, it is worth some consideration. Is the notion that the inhabitants of these islands still love an open fire a myth nurtured by the National Coal Board? Surely the specifications for new housing in both the public and private sector already point to a declining interest in the "living" fire by younger householders.

Progress in smoke control in the Urban District to date is as follows:

**Orders already operative**

<i>Smoke Control Area No.</i>	<i>Operative Date</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Total No. of Dwelling Houses</i>
1	1.9.59	260	2,200
2	1.10.64	890	4,400
3	1.9.65	1,162	6,450
4	1.10.66	439	1,658
5	1.10.67	283	646
6	1.10.67	120	457
7	1.12.68	470	1,691
8	1.11.69	504	1,705
<i>Total:</i>		4,128	19,207

**Orders considered by Council but deferred  
because of shortage of solid smokeless fuel**

<i>Smoke Control Area No.</i>	<i>Operative Date</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Total No. of Dwelling Houses</i>
9	—	400	1,638

**Notifications of New Furnaces and Control of Chimney Heights**

During the year Section 6 of the Clean Air Act 1968 became applicable. This introduced a new control by Local Authorities over the heights of furnace chimneys and applies to chimneys of all furnaces used to burn pulverised fuel; or other solid matter at a rate of 100 lbs. or more an hour; or any liquid or gaseous matter at a rate equivalent to one and a quarter million B.T.U.s per hour. There is no longer any exemption for furnaces above these capacities serving shops or offices. Also, control is now extended to include existing chimneys when furnaces are enlarged or are replaced by a larger installation. There have been two applications under this Section and in both cases prior consultation took place before the application was submitted. Hence, in each case the application was approved as submitted.

In addition 17 notifications of proposed new boiler installations were received as required by Section 3 of the Clean Air Act 1956, these being units of lesser heating capacity than those requiring approval under Section 6 of the new Act. Whilst the 12 installations using oil fuel are all fired by light gas oil (35 second viscosity) which has a low sulphur content, usually less than one per cent, there is nevertheless a need to ensure adequate dispersal of the flue gases containing sulphur dioxide produced by these installations. However, the introduction of the 1968 Act repealed Section 10 of the principal Act which controlled the height of chimneys of these smaller furnaces and this is considered a retrograde step.

**Measurement of Air Pollution**

The two observation sites maintained by the Department in connection with The United Kingdom National Survey of Air Pollution have been in operation for over a year and it is now possible to assess the overall pattern of results.

At each site an 8-port sampling instrument automatically collects and retains a daily sample of smoke and sulphur dioxide extracted from



the external air, for weekly collection by a member of my staff. In order to assess the effect of the smoke control programme, one site is near Basildon Town Centre within an existing smoke control area, and the other is at Wickford where smoke control is not yet operating.

When the samples are returned to the Department's laboratory, a calibrated reflectometer is used to measure the degree of smoke pollution retained by a filter and the strength of acid in the solution is determined by titration against a standard alkali. These readings are translated into comparable results by Warren Spring Laboratory for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research where calculations are carried out by computer and national comparisons of results made.

Monthly averages of the daily computer readings for the year are appended below. The smoke and SO<sub>2</sub> readings are in micrograms per cubic metre and the figures indicate that Basildon derives some benefit from the Council's policy of smoke control, particularly during the Winter months.

#### **Basildon No. 1, Bader House, Witchards, Basildon**

				<i>Smoke</i>	<i>SO<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>Ratio</i>
January	..	..	..	55	135	0.41
February	..	..	..	53	149	0.36
March	..	..	..	43	113	0.38
April	..	..	..	21	77	0.27
May	..	..	..	13	69	0.19
June	..	..	..	9	44	0.20
July	..	..	..	13	68	0.19
August	..	..	..	14	49	0.29
September		..	..	20	57	0.35
October	..	..	..	37	104	0.36
November		..	..	39	121	0.32
December	..	..	..	53	154	0.34

#### **Wickford No. 1, Wickford Police Station**

				<i>Smoke</i>	<i>SO<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>Ratio</i>
January	..	..	..	56	108	0.52
February	..	..	..	55	116	0.47
March	..	..	..	50	100	0.50
April	..	..	..	21	66	0.32
May	..	..	..	17	64	0.27
June	..	..	..	8	41	0.20
July	..	..	..	14	51	0.27
August	..	..	..	16	44	0.36
September		..	..	20	42	0.48
October	..	..	..	43	78	0.55
November		..	..	45	89	0.50
December	..	..	..	55	132	0.42

All sampling sites in the country are categorised according to their particular environment and orientation and thus it is possible to make some comparison with readings obtained at similar sites in other areas. The following table shows results for smoke and sulphur dioxide for the month of January 1969 for another New Town in Essex, a London Borough, and an old established industrial area in the north of England.

### Comparison of results with other sites—January 1969

<i>Site</i>			<i>Smoke</i>	<i>SO<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>Ratio</i>
Basildon 1	..	..	55	135	0.41
Harlow 5	..	..	42	131	0.32
Ilford 1	..	..	96	239	0.40
Salford 14	..	..	163	123	1.33

### Industrial Smoke Offences

The saga of intermittent smoke and fume nuisance to nearby householders from an oil-fired heater unit at a large garage in the New Town was continued. During the year certain work was carried out following the dismantling and complete examination of the heater unit by a specialist heating engineer. Firstly the flue was extended to improve the dispersal of the combustion gases to overcome the complaints of fume and the feed pipe was to be connected to a different oil tank to overcome the problem of water in the fuel. In addition, the maintenance contract was extended to include three major services per year and regular monthly checks by heating service engineers during the Winter months.

Since these changes were introduced, one complaint was received which proved to have been due to a mechanical failure – a jammed feed pump. This shows a great improvement as compared with the situation before these renovations were introduced and I am hopeful that the problem has been finally overcome.

No other contraventions of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations 1958 were observed.

## FACTORIES

The number of registered factories in the Urban District has now risen to 304, and almost 60 per cent of this total received an inspection during the year. In factories using mechanical power, which includes the vast majority of factories in the area, my Department is responsible for ensuring that the sanitary accommodation is adequate and maintained in a satisfactory condition. In the small number of factories in which mechanical power is not used this responsibility is extended to include cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors within the factory working areas.

In 26 cases contraventions were found warranting the service of informal notices drawing the attention of the management to the unsatisfactory items. In such cases the necessary work is undertaken with the minimum of delay.

It has been common practice over the years for contractors engaged in certain trades to employ persons to carry out work in their own homes. These employees are known as outworkers and the employers are required by the Factories Act to submit to the Council bi-annually a list of those persons so employed. During the year random checks of the home working conditions were made of nearly 50 per cent of the outworkers notified to the Department. All premises visited were considered satisfactory.

Within the designated New Town area, three new factories became operative on the No. 2 Industrial Estate, whilst extensions were completed to three existing factories.

### PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

#### Part 1 of the Act

#### 1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupier Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	285	164	25	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	16	14	1	—
<i>Total:</i>	304	179	26	—

2. Cases in which **defects** are found.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	7	—	1	—
(c) Redecoration	12	12	—	—	—
(d) Cleansing of sanitary fittings	6	6	—	—	—
(e) Ventilation	6	2	—	—	—
(f) Lighting	2	2	—	—	—
<i>Total:</i>	34	30	—	1	—

## **OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963**

### **Registrations and Inspections**

This Act now affects almost 9,000 employees in 819 registered premises in the District. Whilst the 76 new registrations received were offset by 79 premises going out of the scope of the Act due to closure or change of occupancy, the number of persons employed in registered premises increased by over 350. The transfer of the Post Office from a Crown Department to a Public Authority thereby bringing Post Office premises within the sphere of responsibility of Local Authorities, was no doubt mainly responsible for this increase.

Over 60 per cent of all registered premises received a general inspection and the number of revisits increased by approximately ten per cent over last year's figures which at the time were the highest recorded since the legislation was introduced. This is statistical evidence to show that the health, welfare and safety of office and shop employees is receiving a fair proportion of the time available to the staff of the Department's commercial section.

### **Enforcement**

One hundred and seventy-two informal written notices were served incorporating 336 contraventions of this legislation. Forty per cent of the notices included an item involving redecoration or repair which reflects inadequate maintenance and indicates the importance of periodic general inspections on a programmed basis. Although the temperature requirements are far from ambitious, even the statutory minimum of 16°C. (60.8°F.) is found difficult to maintain in certain shop premises during the cold snaps of Winter. Also it is a fact that whilst we do not receive many complaints from employees, five having been received this year, lack of adequate heating has been the most common. The provision of adequate ventilation is another item which during the year was included on one of every five notices served, mainly involving shop premises. Whilst good ventilation principles are agreed with the developers at the outset, it is not uncommon for occupiers in the light of experience of operating conditions, to erect partitions which affect the original principle of through ventilation and therefore require attention. Some of the more powerful and sophisticated office machinery incorporating power-operated rollers and guillotines, are supplied by the manufacturers without the necessary safety guards. It should be obligatory on the part of the manufacturer to supply these machines adequately guarded from the outset rather than to make these essential fittings available in the form of "optional extras". Surely the safety of the employee should be paramount!

### **Accidents**

Of the 28 accidents notified, 23 were found to warrant investigation. In four of these cases formal warnings were issued to employers requiring improved safety measures.



## PART VIII OF THE ACT— OUTWORK

<i>Nature of Work</i>	SECTION 133			SECTION 134		
	<i>No. of outworkers notified as required by Section (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing apparel making	253	11	—	—	—	—
Plastic moulding and tool making	33	5	—	—	—	—
Hardware and wire articles	16	2	—	—	—	—
Soldering and assembling	12	2	—	—	—	—
Basket making	6	2	—	—	—	—
Total	320	22	—	—	—	—

## Prosecutions

It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings in two instances during the year, these being the first cases taken in this District under this Act.

1. A shopkeeper was prosecuted on two counts and fined a total of £10 with 2 guineas costs.
2. Proceedings were instituted against the owners of a supermarket involving four separate charges and these resulted in fines totalling £16 with £5 costs.

## Contraventions

The undermentioned contraventions were reported by my staff:

	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Temperature .. .. .	4	—	4
2. Washing facilities .. .. .	2	2	4
3. Drinking water .. .. .	5	1	6
4. Ventilation .. .. .	26	6	32
5. Redecoration and repairs .. .. .	61	10	71
6. Provision/repair of floor covering .. .. .	12	2	14
7. Provision of thermometers .. .. .	18	6	24
8. Provision of clothing accommodation and drying facilities for same .. .. .	7	—	7
9. Provision of first aid kits .. .. .	36	7	43
10. General cleanliness .. .. .	10	1	11
11. Stairs, passages, etc., to be free from obstruction .. .. .	14	1	15
12. Overcrowding .. .. .	2	3	5
13. Insufficient lighting .. .. .	6	1	7
14. Provision of W.C.s .. .. .	3	—	3
15. Provision of hot water to existing wash basins	7	—	7
16. Provision of seats and tables .. .. .	1	—	1
17. Marking of doors of W.C.s indicating sexes	1	—	1
18. Door closers to W.C. compartment doors..	3	—	3
19. Provision of handrails to staircases.. ..	7	1	8
20. Provision of intervening ventilated space ..	11	1	12
21. Abstract of the Act .. .. .	18	5	23
22. Inadequate guards to machinery .. .. .	13	2	15
23. Rinsing of drinking vessels .. .. .	8	—	8
24. Dangerous gully surround .. .. .	1	—	1
25. Provision of electric power for lighting and heating .. .. .	2	—	2
26. Refuse accumulations .. .. .	2	—	2
27. Provision of heating .. .. .	5	—	5
28. Provision of suitable steps .. .. .	2	—	2

## FOOD

### Food Hygiene

The beneficial effects of sectionalising the work of the Department is clearly exemplified by the amount of time and effort now being devoted to the inspection of commercial premises within the District. As indicated earlier in this report, the attention given to premises affected by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act has increased, and in the important field of food hygiene 2,975 visits were made to food premises and over 900 contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations found. Both these figures show most satisfactory increases on the previous year's performance which itself was at that time a record for the Department.

Food hygiene standards can nearly always be improved upon and it is therefore imperative that sufficient staff time is allocated to this important aspect of our work. Whilst it is necessary that the structure, fixtures and fittings of food premises should be durable and capable of being easily and thoroughly cleansed, and these fundamental points are not overlooked, we are increasingly directing more attention to the food itself, checking the coding and rotation of perishable goods, handling techniques and the temperature of display units.

The Basildon Development Corporation has constructed a Centre at Laindon incorporating 44 commercial units consisting of shops and offices. This proved an interesting and worthwhile exercise since members of my staff were in liaison firstly with the officers of the Corporation and latterly with the prospective tenants of the supermarkets and other food shops, with the result that from the outset not only were the premises built to comply with the basic legislation, but refinements to encourage good hygienic practices have been incorporated. A proposal by the Corporation to install an open-fronted fruiterers and greengrocers shop was regarded by the Department as an anachronism. Although during several meetings with the interested parties every endeavour was made to persuade both the Development Corporation and the incoming tenant to install a conventional shopfront, the outcome was a compromise resulting in the installation of an openable shopfront capable of being used in the closed position should the weather conditions warrant it.

One point arising during the year concerned off-licence premises where, because all products are generally in closed containers, it has not been our practice to require a separate sink provided with hot and cold water. However, it is common practice for wine glasses to be hired out to customers for parties and wedding receptions if the liquor is purchased there. A problem arose when an Inspector discovered returned dirty glasses in the rear storeroom of an off-licence being washed in a bucket, water having been drawn from a tap over the wash basin in the W.C. compartment. It is now our practice to require a separate sink provided with hot and cold water suitably sited in all off-licence premises which offer a glass hiring service.

### Markets

The number of food stalls operating in the three Markets in the Urban District at the end of 1969 was as follows:

Basildon	19
Pitsea	17
Wickford	17

Basildon Market has continued to maintain a reasonable standard of compliance with the relevant legislation. It proved necessary to institute legal proceedings against one stallholder who, after several warnings, failed consistently to meet the screening requirements. Close co-operation between my Inspectors and the staff of the Council's Treasurer, who is responsible for the administration of the Market, has continued during the year and has proved a valuable asset.

The new Pitsea Market opened in February and apart from the minor teething troubles one expects with any new project, the transition, at least for the food stallholders, proved reasonably smooth. Concern was expressed prior to opening that condensation may prove a problem in the totally enclosed dome 'A' housing the permanent food stalls and cafe, but the large mechanical fan in the apex of the dome has proved adequate to minimise this problem once the initial drying out period had passed. The Development Corporation's assessment of the number of stalls which could be fitted into dome 'A' proved over optimistic and after several trading days had to be reduced. The housing of this Market in large domes constructed of tubular framework covered with a nylon-P.V.C. skin raised much comment, primarily I suspect, because of the change from a conventional market layout. On the whole, however, it has been a change for the better.

Wickford Market continues to be the "poor relation" of the three Markets in the Urban District, at least from the point of view of environment. There was a change of ownership during the year following which an attempt was made to improve the surface of the main Market area and this has provided better conditions underfoot. Whilst this Market does not enjoy the same modern amenities as the other Markets in the District, good co-operation has been received this year from the food stallholders and reasonably good standards have been maintained having regard to the conditions.

### **Prosecution of Offences**

Generally, my Inspectors were able to obtain compliance with food legislation by informal action. In a small percentage of cases, however, the necessary co-operation was not forthcoming, resulting in legal proceedings being instituted at Billericay Magistrates' Court in the following cases:—

#### **Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960**

1. A Basildon shopkeeper was prosecuted on two counts under these Regulations and also for the sale of milk and ice cream without the necessary licence or registration, and was fined a total of £20 with two guineas costs.
2. The owners of a Wickford supermarket were prosecuted on four charges resulting in a fine of £40 with £5 costs.
3. A local bakery was fined £50 with £10 costs for allowing a dirty delivery tray to be used.

#### **Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966**

1. A Basildon Market stallholder was prosecuted on two counts and given a conditional discharge, the Council being awarded £2 costs.



2. The operator of an ice cream vehicle was fined £5 with £2 costs.
3. A second ice cream vehicle operator was prosecuted and fined £3.

## Noise Abatement Act 1960

The two ice cream vehicle operators mentioned above were also prosecuted under this Act and fined a total of £13.

### Registration of Premises under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Twenty-three new applications for the manufacture or storage of ice cream intended for sale were received during the year under review. Taking account of the number of cancellations of registration due to closure, the total number of registered premises is now 197. Four new applications for the preparation or manufacture of sausages and preserved foods were also received.

## Essex County Council Act 1952—Section 103

During the year 33 additional persons were approved as hawkers of foodstuffs. The Department undertakes an annual review of these registrations which reveals that there is a considerable change of personnel in the mobile food trading business, particularly in ice cream sales from vehicles.

## Ice Cream Production and Sampling

The Department's programme of bacteriological sampling of ice cream and ice cream mix from vans, depots, cafes and shops in the Urban District was maintained with a total of 253 samples taken. A marked improvement in the proportion of satisfactory samples was achieved, particularly from the depots and mobile vendors. This was greatly influenced by the introduction of a sterile mix to replace a pasteurised mix midway through the year by the largest individual company operating in the District. Also the co-operation of the depot manager in supplying a list of current employees at regular intervals now allows a closer check to be kept on the hygiene standards of new entrants into the trade who invariably have no previous experience in handling food and the need to thoroughly cleanse the equipment at the close of each day's trading can be stressed from the outset. The importance of this cleansing procedure is reflected in the results which show that although the mix results are almost perfect, a less satisfactory picture is revealed when the ice cream is produced on the vehicles.

The unsatisfactory results from shop vendors were mainly from outlets which sold loose hard ice cream, but these problems have mainly been overcome by closer attention being paid to the sterilising solution used for the servers and improved cleaning of the equipment.

Results of samples of ice cream mix and ice cream taken for bacteriological examination are as follows:—

## Ice Cream Mix

					<i>Grades</i>				<i>Totals</i>
					1	2	3	4	
From Depots .. .. .	..	..	..	..	7	—	—	—	7
From Shop Vendors .. .. .	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
From Mobile Vendors .. .. .	..	..	..	..	60	2	2	—	64
									71



**Ice Cream**

	<i>Grades</i>				<i>Totals</i>
	1	2	3	4	
From Depots .. .. .	8	1	—	—	9
From Shop Vendors .. .. .	76	9	8	2	95
From Mobile Vendors .. .. .	63	4	8	3	78
					<hr/> 182 <hr/>

**Food Hygiene (General Regulations) 1960**

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number of Premises</i>
Bakers	19
Butchers	40
Cafes	52
Confectioners	65
School Canteens	59
Factory and Stores Canteens	70
Other Canteens	23
Wet and Fried Fishmongers	9
Grocers	80
Greengrocers	34
Supermarkets	35
Licensed Premises	48
Off-Licences	18
Manufacturing Premises	11

**Contraventions**

The summary of contraventions found under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 is as follows:—

Accumulation of refuse—removal of .. .. .	11
Artificial lighting—provision of .. .. .	1
Channels—cleanse or repair .. .. .	6
Cleansing—general .. .. .	58
Cleansing—walls, floors, ceilings, doors .. .. .	112
Dustbins and lids—provide .. .. .	30
Extraneous matter—remove .. .. .	3
First aid kits—provide .. .. .	15
Fittings and fixtures—cleanse .. .. .	14
Flies and birds—precautions and screens .. .. .	7
Floors and floor covering—defective .. .. .	43
Food—protection .. .. .	25
Food—stock rotation .. .. .	3
Glazing—renew .. .. .	3
Hot water—provide .. .. .	35
Lockers for clothing—provide or repair .. .. .	11
Overalls—provide .. .. .	1
Personal hygiene—contravention .. .. .	4
Redecorations .. .. .	130
Refrigerator—cleanse .. .. .	17
—repair .. .. .	15

Repairs—general .. .. .	61
Repairs—walls, doors and pipes .. .. .	23
Rodent control .. .. .	1
Roof/guttering—repair .. .. .	4
Shelves—cleanse or resurface .. .. .	63
Sinks—renew or provide .. .. .	26
Soap, towel, nailbrush—provide .. .. .	36
Staircase—defective treads .. .. .	4
Storage—provide .. .. .	6
—room containing W.C. used for storage .. .. .	5
—unsatisfactory .. .. .	11
Tiles—renew .. .. .	37
Unhygienic equipment .. .. .	22
Ventilated lobby—provide .. .. .	6
Ventilation—provide adequate .. .. .	17
Walls and ceilings—provide washable surface .. .. .	12
Washable bins for refuse—provide .. .. .	11
Wash hands notice—provide .. .. .	7
Water supply—reinstate .. .. .	2
W.C.—cleanse, repair or provide .. .. .	16
W.C.—provide door closers .. .. .	6
Yard—cleanse or repair .. .. .	8
Total:	928

### Bacteriological Sampling of Cooked Meats and Creams

Whilst there are no statutory or accepted bacteriological standards for food of this type, this aspect of sampling is of great value to the Department. It was first introduced in the Department six years ago, since when it has been used as an aid in food hygiene education by correlating bad handling practices and unsatisfactory laboratory results. It is important, of course, that single results should not be considered in isolation and our programme includes repeat sampling from premises where unsatisfactory results have occurred to distinguish individual freak results from those which suggest consistently unsatisfactory conditions at the retail outlet. The presence of *E. coli* in unsatisfactory samples was much reduced this year.

A total of 106 samples of cooked meats and creams were taken during the year with the following results:—

<i>Food sampled</i>	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>No. of Outlets</i>	<i>No. considered Unsatisfactory</i>
Cooked Meats	54	23	25
Creams	52	12	30

### Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963

Sixteen dealer's licences for the sale of pre-packed milk under special designation were issued during the year.

### Control of Milk Supplies

The processing dairy on the No. 1 Industrial Estate at Basildon achieved a throughput of 5,274,991 gallons of milk during the year. Samples of all grades of milk were taken regularly by my staff for the statutory methylene blue and phosphatase tests and details of the results

of these samples and those taken from retail outlets throughout the District are as follows:—

	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>No. Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. Unsatisfactory</i>
Pasteurised .. ..	96	90	6
Pasteurised (Homogenised)	69	68	1
Channel Island (Pasteurised)	33	33	—
Sterilised .. ..	27	27	—
Ultra Heat Treated ..	11	11	—
	<hr/> 236	<hr/> 229	<hr/> 7

The seven unsatisfactory samples arose in six different premises on separate occasions throughout the year, and in each case follow-up samples were taken which proved satisfactory.

In addition, bacteriological sampling of milk supplied to school children was maintained, and the 20 samples taken all proved satisfactory.

The routine sampling from farms immediately following early morning milking was continued. This sampling is to check for the presence of antibiotics or brucella abortus. Of 30 samples submitted for examination, none was found to contain antibiotics, but one proved brucella abortus positive. When the Farmer's veterinary surgeon was notified it transpired two cows had aborted since the sample was taken. As the milk despatched from the farm is pasteurised prior to distribution, the public at large was not at risk, but the farmer, his employees and their families used the milk in its raw state and were advised to boil all milk prior to use until the health of the herd had been checked.

### **Churn and Bottle Rinsings**

Bottles which has passed through the washing machines at the dairy were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results proved highly satisfactory. Rinsings from churns which had been cleansed were also submitted, but in this case intermittent problems arose regarding the efficiency of the churn washer. This resulted in the unit being overhauled during which several partitions were replaced and the jets were renewed and re-aligned. Whilst improvement was noted by the end of the year, the problem had not been completely resolved. The laboratory results of the churns and bottles submitted for examination are as follows:—

	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>No. Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. Unsatisfactory</i>
Churns .. ..	141	124	17
Bottles .. ..	133	132	1

### **Informal Testing of Milk and Milk Products**

The Departmental laboratory was used to carry out basic chemical analyses of informal samples of milk and milk products. The number and range of samples tested within the Department during the year is as follows:—

Milks	25
Cream	25
Ice cream	7
Butter	25
Yoghurt	1
Cheese	31
	<hr/> 114

## Sampling of Food and Drugs

In the course of the year 200 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst who commented adversely on two samples. The following table shows the range of articles sampled:—

Articles Sampled	<i>Samples Analysed</i>	<i>Samples Unsatisfactory</i>
Almond marzipan .. .. .	2	—
Almonds, ground .. .. .	1	—
Baked beans .. .. .	1	—
Beef and egg noodles .. .. .	1	—
Beef continental .. .. .	1	—
Beef curry .. .. .	1	—
Beef pie .. .. .	2	—
Biscuits .. .. .	1	—
Blackcurrant health drink .. .. .	1	—
Blend of aniline dyes .. .. .	5	—
Bronchial mixture .. .. .	1	—
Browning .. .. .	1	—
Butter .. .. .	2	—
Cakes .. .. .	3	—
Cheese products .. .. .	3	—
Cheese, various .. .. .	13	—
Chest mixture .. .. .	1	—
Chicken .. .. .	1	—
Chicken and bacon pie .. .. .	1	—
Chicken and mushroom pie .. .. .	1	—
Chicken supreme .. .. .	2	—
Chopped ham and pork .. .. .	1	—
Chop suey .. .. .	1	—
Coffee mate .. .. .	1	—
Concentrate, beer .. .. .	2	—
Cornish pasty .. .. .	1	—
Cream .. .. .	4	—
Cream dessert .. .. .	3	—
Curry .. .. .	1	—
Curry sauce .. .. .	1	—
Dessert .. .. .	1	—
Essence, various .. .. .	4	—
Flavourings .. .. .	3	—
Food colours .. .. .	1	—
Frankfurters .. .. .	1	—
Fruit juice .. .. .	3	—
Glaze cherries .. .. .	1	—
Home made stew .. .. .	1	—
Horseradish, creamed .. .. .	1	—
Ice cream .. .. .	8	1
Iced lemon tea mix .. .. .	1	—
Jam .. .. .	4	—
Jelly .. .. .	2	—
Lamb stew .. .. .	1	—
Lemonade shandy .. .. .	1	—
Lemon flavouring .. .. .	1	—
Limmits .. .. .	2	—
Low fat spread .. .. .	1	—

Articles Sampled— <i>cont.</i>	<i>Samples Analysed</i>	<i>Samples Unsatisfactory</i>
Malt vinegar .. .. .	1	—
Margarine .. .. .	1	—
Meat pie .. .. .	1	—
Medicated hot lemon flavour ..	1	—
Milk .. .. .	1	—
Milk, non fat .. .. .	2	—
Milk pudding .. .. .	1	—
Milk shake flavouring .. .. .	1	—
Milk shake .. .. .	1	—
Milk top .. .. .	1	—
Mince and onion pie .. .. .	1	—
Minced meat .. .. .	1	—
Mincemeat .. .. .	1	—
Mint flavour .. .. .	1	—
Mixed cereal with fruit and nuts ..	1	—
Muscatelle .. .. .	1	—
Mushrooms, creamed .. .. .	1	—
Paste .. .. .	1	—
Pastry .. .. .	1	—
Pate de foie .. .. .	1	—
Pate de foie truffle .. .. .	1	—
Pickle .. .. .	2	—
Pilchards .. .. .	1	—
Plum pudding .. .. .	1	—
Pork luncheon meat .. .. .	1	—
Pork pie .. .. .	3	—
Puffed wheat .. .. .	1	—
Quick jel .. .. .	1	—
Red cabbage .. .. .	1	—
Rose D'Anjou .. .. .	1	—
Rose hip syrup .. .. .	1	—
Salad cream .. .. .	1	—
Sauces, various .. .. .	7	—
Sausage roll .. .. .	2	—
Sausages, pork .. .. .	4	—
Sherry .. .. .	2	—
Soft drinks .. .. .	13	—
Soup .. .. .	4	—
Spaghetti .. .. .	1	—
Spam spread .. .. .	1	—
Steak and kidney pie .. .. .	5	—
Steak and kidney pudding .. .. .	1	—
Steak pie .. .. .	3	—
Strawberry fruit filling .. .. .	1	—
Sweets .. .. .	4	—
Tea cake mix .. .. .	1	—



Articles	Samples— <i>cont.</i>	<i>Samples Analysed</i>	<i>Samples Unsatisfactory</i>
Toasty grills	.. .. .	2	—
Tomatoes	.. .. .	1	—
Tomato ketchup	.. .. .	1	—
Tongue and turkey roll	.. .. .	1	—
Trimetts	.. .. .	1	—
Vegetable juice	.. .. .	1	—
Vegetable salad in mayonnaise	.. .. .	1	—
White port	.. .. .	1	—
Yoghurt	.. .. .	9	1
		<hr/> 200 <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>

### Non-Genuine Samples

Details concerning non-genuine samples and action taken are set out below:—

#### Orange Ice Cream

When this sample was purchased it was offered for sale at the retail outlet described as “Orange Ice Cream”. The result indicated it consisted of an ice lolly and not ice cream but before this result was received from the Analyst it was noticed that the description at the retail outlet had been changed to “Orange Water Ice”.

#### Low-Fat Yoghurt

The fat content of this sample was 2.2 per cent, but the label described it as “low-fat”. The manufacturer indicated that a yoghurt with a fat content of less than 1 per cent was now in production which was considered suitable for marketing under this description.

### Food Complaints

A total of 184 food complaints was received, the highest number recorded by the Department, showing an increase of over 50 per cent compared with last year. There are probably several factors which have contributed to this situation, among them an article in the Council’s newspaper *Link* which explained to the public what action was open to them if they had a complaint about food and to whom they should complain. In addition, publicity in the local press, where legal proceedings result reminds the public that they do have legal redress in appropriate cases. Each justifiable complaint is thoroughly investigated and the complainant duly informed of the results of the investigation and the course of action taken and it is thought that the general public have become increasingly aware of the seriousness with which the Council view complaints of this nature and consider the trouble of making a complaint worthwhile. It is not thought that the dramatic increase in the number of complaints necessarily reflects a corresponding increase in the degree of negligence on the part of food traders.

In the year under review legal proceedings were instituted in 35 cases, almost four times the number of prosecutions taken last year. It must be stressed, however, that the same considerations, i.e. degree of negligence revealed, or the question of danger to the consumer, have applied throughout. Fines totalling approximately £700 and costs in excess of £100 were awarded in the successful cases taken.

The complaints received included one involving a jar of welfare orange juice found to contain a piece of glass. This orange juice is purchased in bulk by the Department of Health and Social Security and is bottled by commercial factors under contract to the Department, and then distributed through local health centres or retail shops. When the possibility of legal proceedings was contemplated in this case, my attention was drawn to a previous court case involving a welfare food in which it was ruled that no sale took place within the meaning of the Food and Drugs Act even though a charge was made for the product in accordance with a scale laid down by the Welfare Foods Order 1968. The Council was therefore precluded from considering legal action and this would appear to be a loophole in the legislation.

In a second case, a prewrapped bacon joint incorporated a clear instruction on an attached tag that the product should be "stored under refrigeration". After receiving a complaint that one of these joints was in a decomposing state when opened, investigation revealed that this product was being offered for sale on an open shelf in the centre of a supermarket during the August heatwave.

One complainant opened a tin labelled pilchards in tomato sauce to find the tin contained a solidified mass which he described to have the appearance of cat food. Investigation proved him correct for it transpired that both products were canned at the same factory abroad and one small batch had been incorrectly labelled.

In a case concerning foreign matter in bread, legal proceedings were instituted resulting in a fine with costs. At the completion of the case the complainant was notified and the matter considered closed, but shortly after I received a letter from the complainant suggesting that the fine imposed was insufficient and the resultant publicity in the press minimal. I had to explain to the lady in question that both the points raised in her letter were beyond the control of the Council.

### **Food Complaints Referred to the Public Analyst**

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Milk – alleged to be watery	Total milk solids 12.27 % Milk fat 3.70 % Milk solids other than milk fat 8.57 %	Tests showed milk to be genuine.
Misleading ice cream wrapper	The sample contained a satisfactory proportion of strawberries to justify the description Strawberry Special. The label on the carton in which it was contained, however, showed an illustration of ice cream containing whole strawberries embedded in it whereas my examination shows that it consisted of ice cream containing chopped strawberries.	Letter to manufacturers who are in the process of redesigning their cartons.

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Foreign matter in bread	This sample consisted of a slice of white bread having a number of small masses of brownish matter embedded in the crumb. The largest measured approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ " by $\frac{3}{16}$ ". Microscopical examination showed that the brownish matter consisted of charred brown dough containing traces of iron.	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Foreign matter in chipolata sausage	This sample consisted of an uncooked chipolata sausage having a flake of blackish matter adhering to the outer skin. The blackish matter was of irregular shape and approximately $\frac{3}{16}$ " in diameter and was identified as a fragment of skin tissue having traces of dried blood adhering to it. A small cut had been made in the surface of the sausage and the condition of the fragment of skin was compatible with it having been embedded in the sausage.	Letter to manufacturers.
Dirt in cut loaf	This sample consisted of two slices of white bread, each showing numerous blackish particles adhering to the crust down one side. Microscopical examination showed that the blackish particles consisted of finely divided charred crust.	Warning letter to bakery.
Unsound beef chipolata sausage	This sample consisted of a chipolata sausage the casing of which had been opened at one end. Also submitted with the sausage was a small mass of sausage meat showing numerous blackish particles. My examination shows that the blackish particles consist of charred rusk containing traces of iron.	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Unsound Cornish pasty. (This sample was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford for bacteriological examination)	No harmful bacteria isolated.	No further action.
Mouldy cooked meat	This sample consisted of a number of half slices of cooked meat which were submitted for examination following a complaint of mouldiness. My exami-	Warning letter to retailer.

*Nature  
of Complaint**Analyst's Report**Action Taken*

nation of these half slices showed that three of them each had one very small area of greenish mould growth which varied from 3 millimetres across to 1 millimetre across. These three slices also showed the presence of traces of whitish mould growth. In each instance both the white and green mould growths were present on the edge of the slices.

Chicken pie alleged to have caused illness (This sample was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford for bacteriological examination)

No harmful bacteria isolated.

No further action.

Foreign matter in currant bun

This sample consisted of two small portions of currant bun and was submitted for examination following a complaint that it contained foreign matter which was thought to be a cigarette end. My examination of the two pieces of bun showed the presence of a mass of brownish foreign matter about 1.5 cm. across embedded in one piece and a similar mass measuring 0.5 cm. across embedded in the other. My examination of the two masses of foreign matter showed that they both consisted of masses of finely divided stalk tissue admixed with other vegetable matter including the husk of grape seeds. No evidence of the presence of any tobacco, cigarette paper or rodent excreta was found in the masses of foreign matter.

Warning letter to bakery.

Foreign object in corned beef

This sample consisted of an opened 12 oz. can of corned beef, two slices had been cut from the contents and replaced in the can. Examination of the corned beef showed a mass of blackish fibres approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$ " long embedded in one of the slices. Examination of the blackish mass showed that it consisted of animal hair attached to a fragment of skin.

Warning letter to manufacturer.



<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Foreign object in milk shake syrup	This sample consisted of an apparently full 26 fl. oz. bottle of banana milk shake syrup. Numerous small brownish bodies were observed suspended in the the syrup and resting on the inside of the bottom of the bottle. Microscopical examination showed that these brownish bodies consisted of the abortive seeds naturally occurring in bananas.	Found to be banana pips naturally occurring in the fruit. No further action.
Stale chocolate eclairs. (This sample was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford, for bacteriological examination)	No harmful bacteria isolated.	Warning letter to retailer to improve stock rotation.
Foreign object in bread	This sample consisted of a large sliced wrapped loaf which was submitted following a complaint of the presence of foreign matter. My examination of the sample showed foreign matter to be present in the crumb of two of the slices. One slice had five brownish fibres varying in length between 12 and 10 mm embedded in the crumb and the crumb in the vicinity of the embedded fibres was stained a greyish colour. One fibre 20 mm in length was loose on the slice. The other slice contained a mass of greyish-brown foreign matter measuring 25 by 7 mm embedded in the crumb. This mass of foreign matter was found to consist of a mass of fibres embedded in dirty dough containing traces of iron. The fibres present in both the slices were of vegetable origin and I formed the opinion that they could have originated from a brush.	Legal proceedings. Fined £10 with £2 costs.
Foreign object in corned beef	This sample consisted of a slice of corned beef approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick together with a few small fragments of corned beef which included a number of small blackish masses. A similar fragment of blackish matter measuring approximately 10 mm by 7 mm was found embedded in the side of the thick slice. My examination shows that the blackish masses consist of dried blood.	No further action.



<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Unsound chocolate eclairs	This sample consisted of two chocolate eclairs which had been divided into a number of pieces and which were submitted following a complaint as to their condition. One of the eclairs had been divided into five parts and showed the presence of marked greenish mould growth on the pastry of one of the pieces and traces of mould growth were present on the filling at its junction with the pastry. The other eclair which had been divided into three parts showed a small patch of greenish mould growth in the filling on one of the pieces and traces of similar mould growth were found on the pastry.	Legal proceedings. Fined £10 with £3 costs.
Foreign object in luncheon meat	This sample consisted of several slices of luncheon meat. An irregular shaped fragment of white metal was embedded in one of the slices near to the centre. Upon removal the metal which weighed 8.3 milligrams was shown to consist of aluminium.	Legal proceedings. Case dismissed.
Foreign object in meat pie	This sample consisted of a pale brown stone fragment measuring approximately 11 by 6 by 5 mm having traces of dark brownish deposit firmly adhering to it. The traces of dark brown deposit were shown to consist of traces of meat and dough.	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Mouldy bread	This sample consisted of a whole wrapped brown loaf which was submitted for examination following a complaint as to its condition. My examination of the loaf showed that almost the whole of the outer crust with the exception of the two ends was covered with a heavy growth of moulds. The predominating moulds were the Orange Yellow <i>Monilia Sitophila</i> and greenish <i>Penicillium</i> . When the loaf was cut open small patches of <i>Monilia Sitophila</i> were found in the crumb together with a blackish mould. This loaf was out of condition and unfit for human consumption.	Legal proceedings Fined £15 with £5 costs.

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Foreign matter in bread	This sample consisted of a wrapped sliced white loaf which was submitted following a complaint of the presence of foreign matter. My examination of this loaf showed the presence of a number of small blackish pellets embedded in the surface of the loaf, the pellets being mainly concentrated at the edge of one of the end crusts and over one side. In all there were 23 small pellets and microscopical examination showed that they consisted of small rodent excreta. Further examination of the pellets showed that they had been subjected to a heating process, such as would have occurred if they had been baked on the loaf.	Legal proceedings Fined £25.
Unsound tin of rhubarb	This sample was submitted following a complaint as to the condition of the can in which it was originally packed. Examination of the can showed substantial areas of blistering of the lacquering on the inside of the tin plate with consequent corrosion of the tin plate beneath. Analysis of the rhubarb in syrup yielded the following result:—Tin . . . 177 parts per million. In my opinion the tin content of canned fruits should not exceed 250 parts per million. My analysis shows therefore that although significant attack has occurred on the tin plate of the can the tin content of the rhubarb in syrup does not exceed the maximum amount.	Letter to manufacturer.
Foreign bodies in milk	This sample consisted of an unopened 1 pint bottle of milk closed with a foil cap. Examination showed two blackish thread-like masses attached to the inside of the bottle each approximately 5 mm long. Microscopical examination showed that the thread-like material consisted of vegetable tissue.	No further action.
Cake tasting of soap	This sample was submitted following a complaint that it had a soapy flavour. When received it was already somewhat stale and tasting tests were therefore of no value. Chemical analysis, however, showed no evidence of any rancidity in the oily fraction which was bland and sweet to the taste.	Warning letter to bakery.

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Fly in pressed ham	This sample consisted of a slice of pressed ham, part of the slice had been broken away exposing the remains of an insect embedded in a fold in the meat. Examination of the insect showed that it consisted of the head and abdomen of a House Fly. Part of a leg of a fly was found on another fragment of the slice.	Warning letter to vendor.
Unfit groats	This sample consisted of an opened 8 oz. carton of groats approximately half full. It was submitted following a complaint that it had an "odd soapy taste". I have made a careful examination of the groats and find no evidence of any deterioration likely to give rise to the complaint. It was observed, however, that the groats had a very slight taint which could be attributed to them having been stored in proximity to some aromatic product.	Advised retailer as to storage of this and similar products.
Foreign object in steak and kidney pie	This sample consisted of part of a small meat pie in a foil dish. The sample included a small egg-shaped object approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ " long which had been cut in two. The object was translucent with a white centre and upon examination was found to consist of a small potato.	Warning letter to manufacturer
Unsatisfactory concentrated orange juice	This sample was submitted following a complaint that after consumption of part of it, the consumer suffered blurred sight, severe headaches and other pains. I have made a careful examination of the orange squash for substances likely to give rise to the symptoms described, but with entirely negative results.	Complaint not substantiated. No further action.
Foreign matter in ice cream	This sample consisted of the remains of an ice cream cone containing traces of ice cream and showing a number of minute dark greyish particles adhering to the surface of the cone. Microscopical examination shows that the particles consist of cigarette ash. An unused cone of similar type showing blackish particles embedded in it was submitted for comparison and my examination shows that these particles consist of fragments of charred dough and were quite different to the particles of cigarette ash.	Warning letter to vendor.

*Nature  
of Complaint**Analyst's Report**Action Taken*

Unsound tin of  
meat

This sample consisted of an opened 7 oz. can of luncheon meat submitted following a complaint concerning the general appearance of the luncheon meat and also the presence of dark and green coloured specks on the surface. When received the mass of meat showed a dark brownish band corresponding with the site of the tear-strip around the can. This darkening of the meat sometimes indicates that a crack has occurred in the scored lines which facilitate the removal of the tear-strip. This would allow the ingress of air with consequent deterioration of the meat in the can. In the present case, however, since eight days elapsed between the can being opened and receipt in my laboratory, I am unable to state whether this discolouration was due to a fault in the can or whether it occurred after the tear-strip had been removed. The spots of discolouration on the surfaces of the meat appear to be due to slight corrosion of the inner surfaces of the can, but once again this could have happened after the can was opened. The general composition of the luncheon meat was normal.

Warning  
letter to  
importers.

Unsound tin of  
pork luncheon  
meat

This sample consisted of an opened 12 oz. can of luncheon meat submitted following a complaint that it had an abnormal colour and that rust was apparent on the inside at the end of the tin. My examination shows a band of dark discolouration which corresponds with the site of the tear-strip around the can. This darkening of the meat sometimes indicates that a crack has occurred in the scored lines which facilitate the removal of the tear-strip. This would allow the ingress of air with consequent deterioration of the meat in the can. In the present case, however, since six days elapsed between the can being opened and receipt in my laboratory, I am unable to state whether this discolouration was due to a fault in the can or whether it occurred after the tear-strip had been removed. In addition there were two small spots of rust on the surface of the

Letter to  
importers  
requesting  
them to draw  
the canner's  
attention to  
the need for  
greater care  
during the  
canning  
process.



<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
	meat and these corresponded to the position where the key was spot welded on to the base of the can. The lacquer on the inside of the can had been clearly damaged at the site of the welding and this had allowed some slight corrosion of the tin plate.	
Foreign body in loaf of bread	This sample consisted of part of a white loaf approximately 3" long. Upon examination a blackish foreign object measuring $1\frac{3}{4}$ " by $\frac{3}{8}$ " and covered with a layer of firmly attached dough was found resting in a cavity of the cut surface of the loaf. Upon removal of the attached dough the foreign object was found to consist of a coarsely woven white cotton fabric having a layer of a rubber compound on one side.	Legal proceedings. Fined £50 with £10 costs.
Foreign objects in lager	This sample consisted of an opened 9 $\frac{2}{3}$ fl. oz. bottle of lager beer, containing approximately 3 fl. oz. of a liquor having an original gravity of 1037.3. Examination of the liquor showed five cigar-shaped bodies each approximately 4mm long suspended in it. The cigar-shaped bodies were identified as empty insect pupae cases.	Warning letter to brewery.
Foreign matter in tin of vegetable soup	This sample consisted of the contents of a can of vegetable soup which on examination was found to contain a disc of greyish curd like skin approximately 1" in diameter. My examination shows that the skin consists of mould growth. The can in which the soup was originally packed was also submitted and upon examination was found to show no evidence of any fault or deterioration.	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Unsound tin of pilchards	This sample consisted of an opened 1 lb. can of pilchards in tomato sauce and was submitted for examination as the result of a complaint. My examination of the contents of the can showed that it consisted of macerated fish and not of pilchards in tomato sauce. This sample was accompanied by an opened 1 lb. can of "Happy Pet" cat food and the contents of this can also consisted of macerated fish, being very similar in appearance to the contents of the can which gave rise to the complaint.	Warning letter to importer.

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Unsound frozen beans	This sample consisted of an opened 4½ oz. frozen packet of sliced beans. Examination of the sliced beans showed that they had a slightly brownish appearance, and they had a number of minute orange/pink spots on the surface. Microscopical examination showed that the orange/pink spots consisted of yeast colonies.	Letter to to packers.

### **Food Complaints Where Analysis Was Not Required**

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Action</i>
Dirty milk bottle	Milk bottled in Southend. Complaint referred to Southend County Borough Council.
Unsound bread	Bread found to be under-baked. No action possible.
Foreign matter in steak and kidney pie	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Maggots in dates	Identified as larvae of dried currant moth. Unable to ascertain source. Letter to importer and retailer.
Foreign matter in baked beans	Identified as tiny growth shoots from Cotyledons. No action.
Packet of semolina alleged to contain insects	Identified as Psocids. No evidence of infestation in shop. Complaint withdrawn.
Mouldy roast pork	Warning letter to retailer.
Mouldy corned beef	Punctured tin responsible for condition of meat. Unable to ascertain when this occurred. No action.
Ox cheek alleged to be all gristle and fat	Retailer agreed to replace meat and apologise to complainant.
Mouldy steak and kidney pie	Legal proceedings. Fined £10 with £1 costs.
Unsound tin of rice	Defective seam at base of tin. Warning letter to manufacturers.
Foreign matter (maggots) in dates	Identified as larvae of dried currant moth. Unable to ascertain source. Letter to importer and retailer.
Unsound chicken	Lack of thorough cleaning of bird responsible for abnormal odour. Retailer agreed to replace product.
Stale bread rolls	Customer reimbursed. No further action.
Foreign matter (maggots) in in sugar	Identified as apple codling moth. Unable to ascertain where sugar purchased. No further action.

*Nature of Complaint*

Unsound meat

Foreign matter (glass) in  
welfare orange juice

Foreign bodies in prepacked  
cheese

Glass in pickled onion

Foreign object in bread

Mildewed corned beef

Foreign matter in bread

Foreign object in jar of  
marmalade

Piece of hook in jam tart

Red stain on tea cakes

Foreign matter in bread

Milk top in bottle of school milk

Foreign object in honey

Foreign object in milk

Foreign matter on cheese

Foreign object in sausage meat

Mould on bread

Unsound liver

Insect in jar of jam

Foreign object in dairy cream  
sponge

Unsound liver

Insect in sugar

Foreign matter adhering to loaf  
of bread

Foreign object on bottle of  
school milk

Mouldy bread

*\*Action*

Warning letter to retailer.

Complaint referred to Department of  
Health and Social Security.

Warning letter to vendor requesting  
improved standards in food packaging.

Legal proceedings. Defendant granted  
Absolute Discharge. Council awarded  
10 guineas costs.

Warning letter to bakery.

Damaged tin. Warning letter to re-  
tailer.

Legal proceedings. Fined £20 with  
5 guineas costs.

Identified as a bristle. Warning letter  
to manufacturer.

Legal proceedings. Fined £50 with  
5 guineas costs.

Found to be from printing ink on  
wrapper which had been absorbed into  
the product. Warning letter to manu-  
facturer.

Warning letter to bakery requesting  
improved cleaning techniques of bakery  
equipment.

Warning letter to dairy.

Legal proceedings. Fined £15.

Referred to Southend County Borough  
Council as milk bottled in that area.

Warning letter to vendor.

Legal proceedings. Fined £10.

Legal proceedings. Fined £10.

Complainant accepted replacement. No  
further action.

Warning letter to manufacturer.

Complainant surrendered foreign ob-  
ject to vendor. No further action  
possible.

Legal proceedings. Fined £25.

Identified as a wood louse. Unable to  
ascertain source. No further action.

Warning letter to bakery.

Warning letter to dairy.

Legal proceedings. Fined £10.

*Nature of Complaint*

Mouldy pastry

Mouldy bread

Unsound pork

Mouldy crumpets

Glass in school milk

Foreign matter in fish

Unsound corned beef

Dirty milk bottle

Foreign body in bottle of milk

Unsound tin of corned beef

Unsound pork

Dirty milk bottle

Dirty milk bottle

Mouldy bread

Foreign object in bottle of milk

Unsound sausages

Unsound bacon

Dirty milk bottle

Foreign object in macaroon

Mouldy bread

Foreign objects (stamps) in milk

Mouldy tin of corned beef

*Action*

Warning letters to both retailer and manufacturer regarding stock rotation.

Legal proceedings. Fined £10 with £2 costs.

Meat pre-wrapped on day of purchase. Because of 24-hour delay between purchase and finding meat unsatisfactory no further action. Complainant recompensed by retailer.

Warning letter to vendor re stock rotation.

Warning letter to dairy.

Fish not unfit. No further action possible.

Caused by punctured tin. Warning to retailer to check condition of tins when restocking shelves.

Legal proceedings. Fined £25 with £5 costs.

Matter referred to London Borough of Newham as milk was bottled in that Borough.

Caused by faulty tinning. Suspect tins withdrawn from sale. Matter taken up with importers.

Warning letter to vendor.

Matter referred to Southend County Borough Council as milk bottled in that Borough.

Legal proceedings. Fined £25.

No action due to lapse of time between purchase of article and complaint.

Found to be a piece of wire which was in fact embedded in the glass. No further action.

Warning letter to manufacturer.

Warning letter to vendor.

Matter referred to Southend County Borough Council as milk bottled in that area.

Legal proceedings. Fined £50 with £5 costs.

Mould first noticed three days after purchase. No action.

Warning letter to dairy.

Caused by punctured tin. Warning letter to vendor.



*Nature of Complaint*

Mouldy wrapped bread

Foreign matter in bread

Unsound bread

Unsound meat pate

Foreign matter in meat pie

Foreign object in bottle of shandy

Dirty milk bottle

Fly in ham roll

Unsound egg and ham roll

Mouldy bread

Mouldy pie

Unsound bread

Mouldy bread

Mouldy cheese

Foreign matter in milk

Mouldy bread

Mouldy cheese

Mouldy pie

Mouldy sausages

Mouldy bread

Foreign object in tin of ham

Unsound meat pie

Mouldy jar of jam

*Action*

Legal proceedings. Fined £10 with 3 guineas costs.

Specimen incomplete. No further action.

Complaint not substantiated.

Legal proceedings. Fined £30 with £5 costs.

Warning letter to manufacturer.

Warning letter to manufacturer.

Warning letter to dairy.

Warning letter to catering company.

Warning letter to vendors suggesting installation of a refrigerated display unit.

Warning letter to bakery.

No further action as complainant uncertain of date of purchase.

No action due to lapse of time between purchase of article and finding it unsound.

Warning letter to manufacturer and vendor.

Warning letter to manufacturer requesting improved packaging and coding of product.

Milk bottled in Southend. Complaint referred to Southend County Borough Council.

Complaint not substantiated.

Complaint not substantiated.

Legal proceedings. Fined £10 with £2 costs.

Legal proceedings. Fined £50 with £3 costs.

No action due to lapse of time between purchase of article and complaint received.

Found to be small piece of aluminium plate which had become loosened from the tin and embedded in the meat. Warning letter to canners.

Complaint not substantiated.

Found that the rim of the jar was not level thereby causing a loss of vacuum after capping leading to the mould growth. Warning letter to manufacturer.

*Nature of Complaint*

Unsound bacon joint

Unsound eggs

Mouldy pork pies

Dirty milk bottle

Dirty milk bottle

Rancid biscuits

Mouldy bread

Metal in loaf of bread

Unsound Russian salad

Dirty milk bottle

Mouldy cheese spread

Foreign object in black pudding

Unsound cake

Maggot on fried cod

Foreign object in mixed cereal food

Wasp in beef risotto

Mould in sponge

Foreign object in loaf of bread

Mouldy sliced loaf

Mouldy loaf of bread

Unsound pears

Unsound bacon

Unfit bacon

Maggots in rice

Fly in pre-packed bacon

*Action*

Legal proceedings. Fined £60 with £5 costs.

Letter to retailer.

Warning letter to manufacturer.

Warning letter to dairy.

Referred to London Borough of Newham as milk bottled in that area.

Warning letter to vendor and manufacturer.

Caused by bread being insufficiently cooled before wrapping. Bakers requested to overhaul their method of rotating bread during the cooling process.

Legal proceedings. Fined £25 with £3 costs.

Warning letters to retailer and manufacturer stressing the need for both parties to review their operating procedures.

Referred to Southend County Borough Council as milk bottled in that area.

Legal proceedings. Fined £15 with £5 costs.

Legal proceedings. Fined £15 with £5 costs.

Complaint not substantiated.

Identified as larvae of Cacao Moth. Unable to ascertain source.

Identified as fragment of green lacewing fly. Warning letter to manufacturer.

Complaint not substantiated.

Warning letter to vendor regarding stock control.

Warning letter to bakery.

Unsatisfactory storage of bread by complainant. No further action.

Warning letters to manufacturer and retailer.

Warning letter to vendor.

Legal proceedings. Fined £30 with £5 costs.

Legal proceedings. Fined £30.

Warning letters to retailer and packers.

Warning letter to vendor.

*Nature of Complaint*

Unsound fish fingers

Foreign matter in loaf

Unsound cooked chicken

Insects in packet of whip crunch

Dirty milk bottle

Mouldy fruit pie

Mouldy fruit pie

Unsound box of chocolates

Glass in sausage

Insect in cake

Foreign object in cooked sausage

Foreign objects on pie

Mouldy cheese

Mouldy tin of corned beef

Spider in tin of apples

Fly in bread

Fish alleged to be smelling of ammonia

Dirty milk bottle

Maggots in sweets

Mouldy malt loaf

Cracked and dirty bottle of milk

Mouldy mini-pork pies

Foreign object in mince pie

Maggot in fish finger

*Action*

Complaint not substantiated.

Found to be stale dough mixed with lubricating oil. Warning letter to manufacturer.

Legal proceedings. Fined £10 with £5 costs.

Found to be book lice. Unable to ascertain source of infestation.

Referred to London Borough of Newham as milk bottled in that area.

Warning letters to vendor and manufacturer.

Warning letters to vendor and manufacturer.

Found to have been subjected to excessive heat for a prolonged period. No further action.

Lack of evidence. No prima facie case.

Warning letter to manufacturer.

Warning letter to manufacturer.

Warning letter to manufacturers to review their cleaning procedure of bakery equipment.

Caused by faulty packaging. Warning letter to manufacturer.

Caused by damaged tin. Unable to ascertain when damage occurred. No further action.

Warning letter to canners.

Legal proceedings. Absolute discharge. £3 costs.

Fish found to be fit for human consumption. No further action.

Matter referred to London Borough of Newham as milk was bottled in that Borough.

Legal proceedings. Fined £5 with £2 costs.

Legal proceedings. Fined £10.

Found to be an imperfection in the glass produced at the time of manufacture. No further action.

Warning letter to manufacturer.

Warning letter to manufacturer.

Identified as maggot of Apple Codling Moth. Unable to ascertain when and where maggot entered product.

*Nature of Complaint*

Mouldy pre-packed cheese  
 Leaf in school milk  
 Mouldy pork pie  
 Mouldy cheeses  
 Mouldy Russian salad

Foreign body in tin of salmon

Snail in tin of peas

Insects in packet of semolina

Maggot in biscuits

Foreign object in cheese

Foreign object in Turkish Delight

Foreign object in tin of tomatoes

Unsound butter

Dirt in milk bottles

Dirt in milk bottle

*Action*

Legal proceedings. Fined £15.

Warning letter to dairy.

Complaint not substantiated.

Warning letter to vendor.

Unable to ascertain whether manufacturer or retailer at fault. Retailer requested to introduce coding of perishable products.

Found to be crystals of magnesium ammonium phosphate naturally occurring in tinned salmon. No action.

Warning letter to canners.

Legal proceedings. Fined £15 with £3 costs.

Warning letter to retailers.

Unable to trace the producer. Letter to Canadian High Commissioner who agreed to bring it to the attention of the Dairy Products Division in Ottawa.

Warning letter to manufacturers requesting they review their handling techniques.

Warning letter to importers.

Letter to packers.

Complaint not substantiated. "Dirt" identified as deposited milk solids.

Complaint not substantiated for same reason as above.

## Unsound Food

Details of food unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered to the Public Health Inspectors, excluding meat condemned at slaughterhouses, appears in the following table:—

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ozs.</i>
Bacon .. .. .	—	3	35	8
Butter, margarine and fats	—	1	32	6
Bread and flour ..	—	—	36	—
Cereals .. .. .	—	—	23	6
Confectionery (flour) ..	—	—	84	14
Cream .. .. .	—	—	26	8
Cheese (various) ..	—	1	109	14
Fish (fresh) .. ..	—	11	20	10
Fish (canned) .. ..	—	—	108	9
Fruit (fresh) .. ..	—	—	47	15
Fruit (canned) .. ..	1	1	14	6
Fruit (dried) .. ..	—	1	46	2
Hams (canned) .. ..	—	—	49	4
Meat (fresh) .. ..	1	2	79	9
Meat (canned) .. ..	—	3	87	10
Milk (canned and dried)	—	—	87	4
Poultry and game ..	—	4	51	6
Preserves .. .. .	—	1	29	8
Sausages and sausage meat	—	—	42	8
Soup (canned) .. ..	—	—	41	10
Sundries .. .. .	—	6	68	6
Vegetables (fresh) ..	—	1	47	—
Vegetables (canned) ..	—	6	94	8
Totals:	4	12	32	11

Frozen Foods .. .. 10,407 packets

## MEAT

The number of animals slaughtered for food at the licensed private slaughterhouse in the District totalled 26,306 and over 11½ tons of meat and offal were condemned as unfit for human consumption. This showed a decrease of almost 3,000 units slaughtered as compared with the previous year's figures but brought no proportionate saving of meat inspection time since although there was a dramatic reduction in the number of sheep and lambs slaughtered, which from a meat inspection viewpoint are the least time consuming, the number of pigs increased by almost 2,000 units.

The change over to the use of water sprays in the slaughterhall in lieu of the unhygienic wiping cloths, which has now been operational for well over twelve months, did not produce the problems of appearance or keeping quality of the carcase envisaged by the meat trade at the outset.

The Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations 1969 were introduced in November and rigidly enforced.



The Regulations were made to tighten control on the sale of knacker meat and unfit meat, both imported and home-produced, in the raw state. The slaughterhouse in this District does not possess sterilising facilities on the premises and the new regulations therefore had the effect of barring the supply of unfit meat to people such as kennels and domestic pet owners who had been able to obtain it in the past for boiling before feeding their animals.

The effect locally has been to reduce the number of persons collecting unfit meat from the slaughterhouse from 11 to two.

#### **Slaughter of Animals Act 1933-1954**

Fifteen slaughtermen's licences were issued in the year under review. This figure included two probationary licences which were issued for an initial period of six months.

## MEAT INSPECTION — STATISTICS

TABLE I

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED  
IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	2,544	170	315	9,918	13,359	—
Number inspected	2,544	170	315	9,918	13,359	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</b>						
Whole carcass condemned	3	6	11	21	28	—
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	436	51	12	1,366	1,574	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	17.27 %	33.55 %	7.3 %	13.99 %	12.11 %	—
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>						
Whole carcass condemned	—	—	—	—	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	8	—	—	166	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.19 %	4.71 %	—	—	1.26 %	—
<b>Cysticercosis</b>						
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generally and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE II

REASON FOR CONDEMNATION AND WEIGHTS OF PARTS  
CONDEMNED OTHER THAN THAT SHOWN IN TABLE I

	<i>Pounds</i>
Abscess .. .. .	2,939
Actinobacillosis .. .. .	46
Bruising .. .. .	592
Cirrhosis and necrosis .. .. .	1,099
Cystic infections, parasite, milk spot .. .. .	4,438
Emaciation .. .. .	720
Fatty change .. .. .	18
Fevered conditions .. .. .	1,887
Fascioliasis .. .. .	2,980
Mastitis .. .. .	96
Oedema and dropsy .. .. .	420
Pneumonia and pleurisy .. .. .	3,349
Septicaemia .. .. .	3,141
Swine erysipelas .. .. .	444
Telangiectasis .. .. .	266
Other conditions .. .. .	1,823
	<hr/>
	24,258
	<hr/>

=10 tons 16 cwts. 66 lbs.

TABLE III

WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
For tuberculosis .. .. .	—	15	69
For cysticerci .. .. .	—	—	49
Other causes .. .. .	10	16	66
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11	12	72
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Poultry Inspection**

Approximately the same throughput as last year was achieved at the two premises in the District where poultry is slaughtered. As the carcasses are not eviscerated on the premises and the standard of quality control for the rejection of unsatisfactory carcasses at the establishments is of a high standard, the check visits by my staff are undertaken by the duty meat inspector when he is free to do so. Although the overall number of visits by my staff to these establishments decreased this year, it is noted that the percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption and the weight of poultry condemned has not decreased.

**Statistics**

Number of poultry processing premises within the Urban District	..	..	..	..	..	2
Number of visits to these premises	..	..	..	..	..	56
Number of birds processed during the year	..	..	..	..	..	742,433

Types of birds processed—turkeys, chickens, roasting and boiling fowls and  
poussins

Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	..	..	..	..	..	1.8%
Weight of poultry rejected as unfit for human consumption	..	..	..	18 tons	13 cwts.	3 qrs. 6 lbs



## INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

### Visits carried out by the Public Health Inspectors:

Animal boarding establishments .. .. .	51
Bacteriological sampling .. .. .	610
Burial .. .. .	9
Caravans .. .. .	93
Condemnation of food .. .. .	258
Consumer protection .. .. .	57
Commercial premises under construction (plans check) ..	209
Diseases of Animals Act .. .. .	68
Entomology and pest control .. .. .	531
Factories .. .. .	534
Food complaint investigation .. .. .	681
Food and drugs sampling .. .. .	132
Food premises:	
Bakers .. .. .	109
Butchers .. .. .	251
Confectioners .. .. .	202
Cafes, restaurants and hotels .. .. .	388
Canteens .. .. .	617
Fishmongers .. .. .	38
Fried fish shops .. .. .	53
Grocers .. .. .	307
Greengrocers .. .. .	181
Supermarkets .. .. .	405
Licensed premises .. .. .	293
Manufacturing premises .. .. .	131
Stalls and vehicles .. .. .	3,331
Hairdressers' premises .. .. .	45
Housing .. .. .	1,848
Health education .. .. .	11
Infectious disease enquiries .. .. .	369
Land charges search check .. .. .	59
Massage and special treatment premises .. .. .	4
Meat inspection .. .. .	668
Merchandise marks .. .. .	11
Milk distributors and dairymen .. .. .	1
Noise abatement .. .. .	484
Nuisances .. .. .	4,379
Offices and shops .. .. .	1,837
Overcrowding .. .. .	37
Pet shops .. .. .	24
Poultry inspection .. .. .	56
Rehousing enquiries .. .. .	75
Riding establishments .. .. .	4
Rodent control .. .. .	79
Scrap metal dealers .. .. .	2
Sewer connections .. .. .	116
Shops Act, closing hours, etc. .. .. .	218
Slaughterhouses (cruelty and hygiene) .. .. .	686
Smoke control .. .. .	3,535
Social welfare .. .. .	144
Standard improvement grants .. .. .	126
Swimming pools .. .. .	122
Water courses .. .. .	44
Water supply .. .. .	654

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Total: 25,177

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